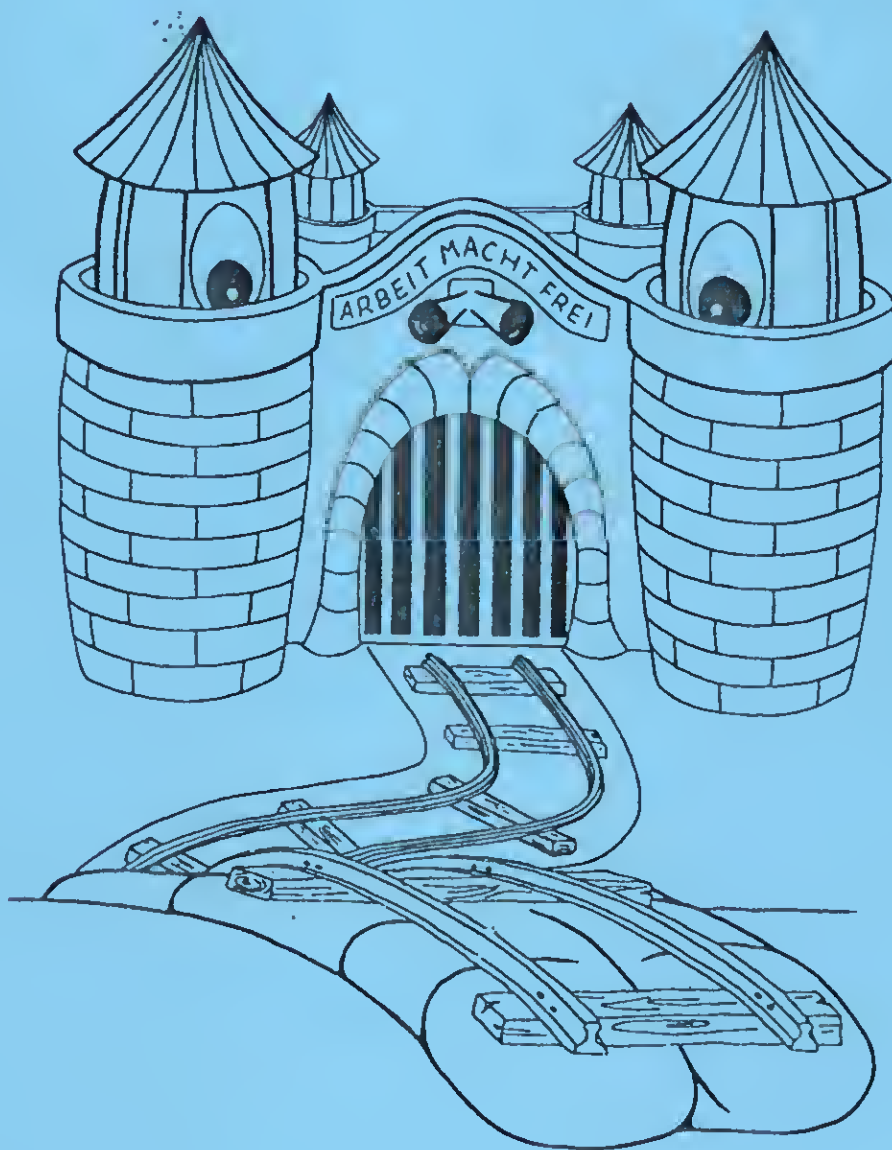


CHAIN REACTION

Issue #6

"Unshackling Captive Minds"

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Who we are

• **Chain Reaction** (defined): A sequence of events, each of which, results in, or has an effect on, the following event.

• "Unshackling Captive Minds" is our goal. We believe that as the truth is revealed and minds are liberated, a "chain reaction" of revolutionary change will transform our present capitalist society of have and have-nots into a truly democratic and egalitarian society built upon meeting human need instead of capitalist greed.

• **Chain Reaction** is a revolutionary class struggle anarchist collective. We are anti-fascist and anti-authoritarian; dedicated to the abolition of prisons, racism, sexism, ageism, and the accomplice capitalist system that supports and perpetuates these institutions of oppression. We are opposed to homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

• We seek to change the media-cultivated perception of prisoners, and build solidarity between prisoners and working class people in the so-called free world.

• We seek to build solidarity with and among all class struggle revolutionary prisoners, and to educate all prisoners on the need to achieve working class revolutionary consciousness.

• We seek to affiliate with other autonomous revolutionary anarchist and libertarian groups who seek the overthrow of capitalism and the authoritarian state; and to establish a global federation comprised of such autonomous groups.

• We seek to provide news and views that reflect the true brutality of capitalist society, and logical reasons for its elimination. At the same time, we aim to put forward workable alternatives to capitalism and show a better way for society to be organized—what we proudly call anarchist communism.

• We are not reformists and do not align ourselves with reformist organizations. We are abolitionists who believe reforms only legitimize and perpetuate a brutal and oppressive system. While we must fight for better conditions now, we have to realize that reform achieved today may be taken away tomorrow.

• We are internationalists who recognize that the disease of nationalism is a ploy by the capitalist ruling class to divide the working class of the world. Our allegiance is to international working class solidarity, which is the only way the working class can respond to, and struggle against, global capitalism and the ruling class to all countries.

• As **Chain Reaction** collective moves forward, we will work to clearly express our goals and purposes as they relate to revolutionary social change.

• We encourage readers to submit articles, art, clippings, and other information concerning prisoner and worker issues. All submissions become permanent contributions to **Chain Reaction** collective and cannot be returned. We reserve the right to reject any material contrary to the goals and purposes of **Chain Reaction** collective.

• Articles not so designated do not represent the official position of **Chain Reaction** collective.

• **Chain Reaction** is published four times a year. Send all articles, art, clippings and information, as well as requests for additional copies of **Chain Reaction** to:
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The Crime of The Century

by

Gulf Coast Red

Welcome once again, fellow miscreants, reprobates, and recidivists, to a brand new edition of CHAIN REACTION. Ah, and where would those law abiding capitalists and their brainwashed state dupes be without we members of the criminalized class? What politician, or other type of cop does not owe us a great debt of gratitude for their self righteous, and secure livelihoods, and for that matter, where would people in the prison industries be without us to leech off of? Even as we speak, the powers that be are finding new and innovative ways to criminalize us and put us under the state boot, from laws to the latest police technology, Big Brother is alive and well in the Lone Star State, the state that helped launch Bush to the White House.

When I was a boy, we used to run into the local 711 Store, grab some beer, and run out without paying. Once outside, we yelled "WHAHOOO!" and therefore, called it, Whahooing beer. Anyway, whahooing beer is probably damn near known as an institution by all Texans who grew up in the 70s, and it was a hand slap misdemeanor offense then, but will now get a teen 10 years in the slammer before he/she even comes up for parole. With respects to the criminalizing of our youth, a paranoid swears to me that Tx. legislators have proposed public floggings (with bull nettle) and, or public hand choppings Saudi Arabian style, for teens caught egging houses on Halloween. If the latter, my paranoid friend claims, a clause on the bill stipulates that a manual prosthesis will be promptly attached, and the youth sent straight off to bootcamp to reflect on his/her criminal past, for at least a decade. No doubt, it'll be on the local law-dog news media before long. And where would those serious faced, head-nodding newscasters and their big bosses be without we of the criminal element. "If it bleeds, it leads" so the saying goes. Yet, if this is so, and the public really does thrive on watching this stuff, then why is it that the same public complains about crime? First Law of Thermodynamics states that there aint no free lunch, and if you want to dance, the fiddler must be paid. Don't the news-viewers realize, that in order for them to get their daily dose of TV news-gore, real crimes must be committed? The civic-minded and altruistic thing for such people to do, would be to volunteer to become willing crime-victims, so that others may continue to enjoy uninterrupted news-gore viewing.

Of course, TV viewers deserve to share some of the limelight with we criminals. By sitting around watching that wonder of technology in their own atomized worlds, they help to contribute to a gray anomic world of stress and alienation, and if we weren't surviving in a gray anomic world of stress and alienation, nary a disturbed soul would be heard to

dash into the local KFC, Uzi a blazzin! blow up their local school, or of dropping their boss into the nearest available tree-mulcher. Fact, the media would run out of tragic macabre tales to tell of a people driven plumb loco.

The debt which the law abiding owe to we criminals goes far back in history. Karl Marx noticed that the evolution of the lock was inextricably intertwined with the ever more adroit practices of thieves, and Ernest Hemmingway commented similarly on the evolution of safes, commensurate with the increasing ingenuity of safecrackers. And think of all those safes, chock full of capital-veritable challenges to sublime criminal minds!

It's said that a high percentage of criminal plots are simply learned off of watching the idiot box. Maybe Hollywood will some day soon make a four star movie about the ultimate heist, the ultimate reexpropriation of capital, where we, the protagonists of the criminalized deviant class take over the tools of production and give the collective boot to those sparkling law abiding ones at the top of the heap!

If, after watching this film, members of our class decide to emulate this sublime criminal plot, it may well prove to be the end of history, at least for the evolution of locks and safes. It'll be Fat City, and what better way to ring in the new millennium, than with the proletarian crime of the century!

To all of you prisoners being tormented, tortured and abused in these anti-human state hell holes- whether through simple self flagellation, Big Brother's sadistic programs, or the predatory, non-class conscious, lumpenprole prisoner next to you. We at Chain Reaction wish you a very warm revolutionary Happy New Year. CR



FREE SPEECH AND THE I.W.W.

by
Gulf Coast Red

Most people in the U.S. believe that the American Constitution is some unequivocal guarantor of free speech and assembly. The reality is more the opposite though. People have often, historically, had to exercise the right to speak and assemble freely in spite of a U.S. governmental repression intent on checking these very democratic aspirations.

The Industrial Workers of the World are no strangers to butting heads with the plutocracy over the exercise of free speech. The plutocrats don't like any type of free speech that threatens their grip on the world's workers. The I.W.W.'s quest has always been to get the working class organized into One Big Union (lamin' up the slaves) in order to dump the bosses off of our backs, and abolish the wage/class system. This has necessitated a lot of free expression, and the bosses have tried a lot of angles to shut us up. Nevertheless, instead of waiting for the government to grant, or hand down the right to speak freely in some time consuming court ruling, the I.W.W. used and still uses Direct Action to ensure something (Free expression) no government should have to be looked to to ensure. After all, Direct Action Gets the Goods!

Recent years have seen many public free expressions of outrage at the decadent earth destroying capitalist system, and the I.W.W. has been a major presence and egittational force at all of these. At the Seattle anti-World Trade Organization protest, the I.W.W. played a major part, scrimmaging off with police, in pepper-gas and rubber bullet infested confrontations with Seattle's Finest. The Seattle coppers were intent on coercing peataters not to march downtown to the WTO convention site. When said protesters were ordered to turn around, one Wobbly reportedly yelled "Don't turn around, go downtown!" whereupon a large contingent of Wobblies, electrical workers, steel workers, and longshoremen busted through police lines and made their way directly downtown to the "no protest zone. The solidarity of the thousands of protesters engaged in direct action shut down the WTO plunderer's conference, showing the world just exactly what the working class is capable of when it sets it's mind to it.

The I.W.W. was at the Washington D.C. anti-World Bank protests, flying the red and black Wobbly banner proud. Protesting against the two puppet political parties of capitel, and all they represent. The I.W.W. was at the republican Convention in Philadelphia, as well as the Democratic National Convention in L.A.. Both events saw extreme police repression and governmental interference with free speech and assembly-massive arrests.

Protesters in Philly were linking struggles, and voicing loud 'n' proud their hatred for capitalist injustices, from expansion of the Prison Industrial Complex, capital punishment and criminalization of the poor, to racial profiling and police brutality- to name but a few. Anarchists used cop cars for trampo-lines (the only thing they're good for) and it was the biggest ever protest at a nominating convention.

In L.A. the PIGZ were ready, and well organized. They were expecting some 20,000 direct actionists from Seattle to converge on the city and obstruct order. L.A. is no stranger to direct action. The city tried to declare a one mile square area around the DMC off limits to protesters, but the A.C.L.U. fought a legal battle with the city over it, and as a result the city allotted a paltry fenced in parking lot resembling a prison rec. yard for the speakers.

Wobbly Steve Toff reported that "on the first night they used the 'protest pit' the cops started beating people." The rap metal band Page Against the Machine played there to 10,000 people, but the cops pulled the plug on them and gave everyone (thousands of people) 15 minutes to vacate the area. This was physically impossible, and mounted cops began crushing people against the fences, beating people with truncheons, and shooting people with pepper spray, and rubber and wooden bullets. A group of Wobblies carrying a red and black I.W.W. flag held fast when billy club swinging cops tried to force them from an intersection they were occupying.

Such is the nature of the class war, but this is not the first free speech skirmish, or skirmishes the I.W.W. has been involved in.

In Spokane Washington, 1909, job sharks had been selling logging and mining jobs to gullible hungry workers. They would often sell the same job to as many workers as they could sucker, which would result in 500 people showing up for 50 jobs. The I.W.W. decided to put a stop to this practice and set up an I.W.W. hiring hall where workers didn't have to pay for a job, and where they had some economic leverage against the bosses. The bosses retaliated by tryin to close down the hall, lapound I.W.W. records, and ceasing publication of the union's paper.

Wobblies took to the streets, soapboxing at public meetings to hip the workers up to what was goin' on. They often had to compete with the Salvation Army- "The Starvation Army" to practice this form of direct action. The Starvation Army was in bed with the bosses and notoriously anti-union. They worked overtime to keep the workers meek, ignorant and complacent with pie in the sky Bible banging and Jesus preachin' as well as loud hymnal singing which often drowned out the Wobblies when they were soapboxing. This is in part how the I.W.W. became a singing union. In order

to compete with the Starvation Army, Wobblies made up their own class war lyrics to the Christian hymns. This was how Joe Hill's song, "The Preacher and the Slave" got introduced by Fellow Workers, T-Bone Slim and Mayvire McGillintock. "Using a tube and a garbage can lid for percussion, and a guitar, they'd hide in a doorway as a crowd of workers would be amassed around the Salvation Army's singing Doughnut Dollies. A man would walk by carrying an umbrella, and a briefcase and dressed in a tight suit, a string tie and a bowler. He looked like a banker but functioned like a carnie shill. He'd yell, 'I've been robbed! I've been robbed! Help, I've been robbed!' Everyone would rush over to him, 'what's the matter, what's the matter?' they'd ask. When enough people had gathered around, he'd shout, 'I've been robbed by the capitalist system!' The boys then would jump out singing Joe Hill's song: (see Preacher and the Slave)

The bosses had an ordinance passed against street-speaking, which was of course, against the 1st Amendment, and the cops tried to jail all Wobblies caught exercising free speech. The I.W.W. sent for Wobblies all around the country to come exercise their right to free speech. They came in droves from every corner of the land and met the policeman's billy club. They filled up the jails, the highschool gymnasium, coliseum, and when some 200 went on hunger strike, it became such a problem for the community, that the city gave in and passed an ordinance allowing street meetings.

In San Diego, 1911, the city merchants had urged the city to adopt an ordinance abolishing street speaking. The cops closed some fifty city blocks. Socialists and Wobblies quickly formed the California Free Speech League in order to combat this free speech infringement.

Some 140 speakers were arrested on the first day and held on ridiculously high bail. More Wobblies converged on the city, to back up their Fellow Workers, in line with the Wobbly motto, "An injury to One, is an injury to All." Police clubs awaited them, and the miasma of jail and rotten food were the order of the day.

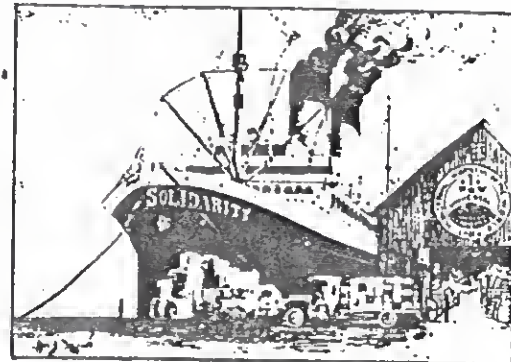


• Everett office with members in doorway 1910

Fellow Worker, Ject White was sentenced by a San Diego judge to six months on bread and water. When asked if he had anything to say to the court, he replied: "The prosecuting attorney, in his plea to the jury, accused me of saying on a public platform at a public meeting, 'To hell with your courts, we know what justice is.' He told a great truth when he lied, for if he had searched the inner most recesses of my mind, he could have found that thought, never expressed by me before, but which I express now. To hell with your courts, I know what justice is, for I have sat in your courtroom day after day and have seen members of my class pass before this so-called bar of justice. I have seen you, Judge Sloane, and others of your kind, send them to prison because they dared to infringe upon the sacred rights of property. You have become blind and deaf to the rights of man to pursue life and happiness, and you have crushed those rights so that the sacred right of property shall be preserved. Then you tell me to respect the law. I do not. I did violate the law, as I will violate every one of your laws and still come before you to say, To hell with your courts! I know what justice is."

The capitalist press called for shooting and hanging of the I.W.W.s. Cops mounted guard on the county line to try and turn the Wobblies back. The fight lasted for eight solid months, during which Wobblies were harassed and beaten by cops, hired thugs, and vigilantes. Some were tar'n' feathered, or forced to run a gauntlet of whips and clubs. One group was even forced to kiss the flag at gun point, and then to take a hike out into the desert, and not come back. After all was said and done though, there was one Wobbly killed, and two cops severely wounded, but the I.W.W. held out. Using direct action, they won the right to free speech in San Diego.

In Fresno, CA, in the San Joaquin Valley, the I.W.W. had been successfully organizing the orchard workers. Fresno cops, backed by the big frelt growers, commenced to harassing and jailing Wobblies. Wobs from as far away as Spokane, Portland, Seattle and Denver travelled by freight train (rattlers) and set up street meetings in order to agitate, educate, and organize the slaves. It was a free speech fight, and the jails overflowed. Faced with this solid direct action from these stalwart, non-beholden to any capitalist I.W.W.s, the city backed down and allowed the I.W.W. to continue to organize workers, which in the case of the orchard workers, was a pretty successful effort.





One of the bloodiest free speech battles the I.W.O. was involved in, however, occurred in Everett WA. in 1916. It had started out as a strike by the A.F.L. shingle weavers, which was subjected to police and gun thug infiltration of meetings and picket lines. Fellow Worker, James Rowan was sent by the I.W.O. to organize a solidarity campaign. He was arrested as soon as he blew into town. The I.W.O. had decided to open up the town and "organize the slavs." They attempted to rent out some halls, but for their trouble, instead, got beaten up and run out of town. Undaunted, some 300 Wobblies chartered two boats in Seattle and came sailing into Everett port singing "Solidarity forever." Sheriffs and deputies hired by the lumber barons greeted them with a fusillade of rifle shots. Most Wobblies were unarmed, but a few shot back. Five Wobblies were killed, and 31 wounded, while others fell into the sea. Two sheriffs were killed, and 16 wounded. All of the rest of the Wobblies were arrested, and 74 were charged with murder. Many were tortured and beaten. Only one of the men was ever brought to trial, however, and was

FELLOW WORKERS:



WE ARE IN HERE FOR YOU; YOU ARE OUT THERE FOR US

eventually acquitted, yet none of the Sheriff's deputies was ever arrested or prosecuted (sound familiar) and the Sheriff, in fact, later on, landed a government job.

In spite of all though, the I.W.O. eventually won out, and they opened up their halls to the working class in Everett.

In San Pedro CA, 1923, The I.W.O. held a massive free speech fight to speak out against the anti-syndicalist laws enacted there, under which more than 100 Wobblies were serving sentences of up to 11 years. It was also to demand hiring through the union hall. At the time, the longshoremen and seamen were out on strike (some 3,500 workers) and some 99 ships were tied up in harbor.

The I.W.O. held meetings on Liberty Hill overlooking the harbor. "You could look down on the ships and get a sense of the power of the workers." The cops were nervous, and eventually arrested some 700 people. Speakers would stand up to speak, and the cops would haul them off to the slammer, and at one point as the strike intensified, some 5,000 people were out in mass, having meetings all over town. A massive throng of Wobblies converged on the San Pedro jail, where about 50 wobblies were locked up. Some prisoners inside broke out some windows, and began to sing a song composed in Chicago, 1917, by Harrison George in Chicago's Darkest Dungeon for The D.B.U. (One Big Union). "Remember you're outside for us." And the people outside would come back with, "And we're in here for you." Powerful stuff!

The author of "The Jungle" Upton Sinclair came out to support of the strike, as well as free speech. As he mounted the soapbox to speak "Congress shall pass no law..." and he was promptly arrested. The strikers were unable to hold on more than four or five weeks, and so it was called off, with the workers deciding to move the strike onto the job, using slowdowns, work to rule, and general withdrawal of efficiency. Although, not a victory, the San Pedro free speech battle was an empowering experience for the workers.

Many Wobblies have gone to prison for years, simply because they were willing to fight for a better life for humankind, in the only war worth fighting. The class war. Then as now, the I.W.O. needs your support, solidarity, and membership. For those of you bold enough to take on the capitalist bosses, take out a red card, and join the I.W.O. today. Don't wait around till the union gets a little stronger. Be decisive, active, and make the union stronger yourself, and help to make this a better planet for all! CR

THE PREACHER AND THE SLAVE

By Joe Hill

Long-haired preachers come out every night,
Try to tell you what's wrong and what's right;
But when asked how 'bout something to eat
They will answer with voices so sweet:

CHORUS

You will eat, bye and bye
In that glorious land above the sky;
Work and pray, live on hay,
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.
And the starvation army they play,
And sing and they clasp and they pray,
Till they get all your coin on the drum,
Then they tell you when you're on the bum:
Holy Rollers and Jumpers come out,
And they holier, they jump and they shout
"Give your money to Jesus," they say,
"He will cure all diseases today."
If you fight hard for children and wife,
Try to find something good in this life-
You're a sinner and a bad man, they tell,
When you die you will sure go to hell.
Workmen of all countries, unite,
Side by side we for freedom will fight:
When the world and its wealth we have gained
To the grafters we'll sing this refrain:

LAST CHORUS

You will eat, bye and bye
When you've learned how to cook and to fry
Chop some wood, 'twill do you good,
And you'll eat in the sweet bye and bye.



SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

By Ralph H. Chaplin

When the Union's inspiration through the worker's
blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun.
Yet what force on earth is mightier than the feeble
strength of one!

But the Union makes us strong!
CHORUS

Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!

But the Union makes us strong.

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite

Who would lash us into serfdom and would crush us
with his might?

Is there anything left for us but to organize and fight?
For the Union makes us strong.

It is we who plowed the prairie; built the cities
where they trade.

Dug the mines and built the workshops; endless miles
of railroad laid.

Now we stand, outcast and starving, 'mid the wonders
we have made;

But the Union makes us strong.

All the world that's owned by idle drones, is ours
and ours alone.

We have laid the wide foundations; built it skyscrapers,
stone by stone.

It is ours, not to slaves in, but to masters and to own.

While the Union makes us strong.

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled
to earn.

But without our brain and muscle not so single wheel
can turn.

We can break their haughty power; gain our freedom
when we learn

That the Union makes us strong.

In our hands is placed a power greater than their
horded gold;

Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand
fold.

We can bring to birth the new world from the ashes of
the old.

For the Union makes us strong.



FW Ralph H. Chaplin

BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE REVOLUTIONARY

MOVEMENT

by

Gulf Coast Red

The last couple of years have seen some encouraging bursts of working class revolt to show us that all are not complacent with the capitalist system. Many at these events, such as the W.T.O., and Democratic and Republican National Conventions have had clearly class conscious motivations, while others, not so clear, have merely proposed reforms within the capitalist system.

We need to form a more clear and definitive anti-capitalist movement which unequivocally has as its aim to abolish capitalism and the political state, and which seeks to replace it with a classless, moneyless, democratically worker-run society of free access.

In order to build a more clear-cut and unified movement, I propose that a North American Convention of Libertarian Socialists be called for the purpose of comparing strategies and methodologies, and to rationally discuss ways we can work together more effectively in order to form a more comprehensive plan of action. As Ben Franklin said, "We will all hang together or we will all hang separately." This convention should include anarchists of every stripe, council communists, syndicalists, and ballot oriented libertarian socialists. At present there are many splintered groups in North America who are aiming at similar goals, i.e. a form of anti-statist non-market socialism. Yet all have different ideas about how society should be set up in a post capitalist world, and some are not very clear on the subject at all. This needs to seriously be discussed, but more immediately, a methodology of getting there requires some relentless discussion.

Every group, be it the anarcho-syndicalists at the I.W.A., Revolutionary Industrial Unionists of the I.W.U., Anarchist Communists, or the World Socialist Party U.S. have different ideas about how to get there. They are all good ideas put forth by good and serious revolutionaries, but unfortunately, to some degree, some more than others, each group is somewhat methodologically exclusivist and therefore sectarian. Such methodological exclusivity is inimical to building a real revolutionary movement and says basically "my method is the only tried and true valid method." This amounts to ideological dogmatic orthodoxy, stagnant and preclusive to building a more fluid movement to address contemporary changes in capitalism. I believe it is important that we study these barriers rationally and open mindedly in order that we may divest ourselves of whatever nonsense stands in the way of attaining our objective.

Two examples that come to mind are anarchist's total refusal to utilize the ballot, even for a libertarian socialist party such as the W.S.P.U.S. and its sister parties. As well, the latter exhibits an almost total aversion to engaging in direct action protest. For an effective revolutionary movement to grow, it will be imperative to knock off some of these method exclusive barriers and for people in these different organizations and groups to back one another up. The only possibility we have of winning is if we make working class solidarity our lowest common denominator and work on that basis. As the I.W.U. says, "An injury to One is an injury to All."

CR welcomes debate from all anti-statist socialists on the subjects of 1) What would a post capitalist society actually look like? 2) How can we arrive at a more unified movement which acts concertedly, agrees on a working methodology, and has the ability to surmount whatever divisions make us ineffectual?

No one can say for sure how we will achieve revolutionary success. We can see how revolutions of the past have come about, but not how they will happen. There is no iron law of revolutionary success as historical contexts and their variables constantly change. In this writer's opinion, any chance at revolutionary success will necessitate a struggle on

many fronts and that those revolutionaries struggling on different fronts be thoroughly knowledgeable about and solid with those on all other fronts. In order to effectively minimize violence will require a majoritarian movement which will entail lots of struggle to get more people to understand how the class system works so they can join in its abolition.

ORGANIZING IN THE WORKPLACE

One of, if not the most important places we need to focus organizing is at the point of production, or the workplace, whether it be in the industries or in the service sector. It is at the point of production that the class war is most fundamental because it is at that point that workers are robbed by the bosses and forced to participate in and reproduce their own exploitation. It is also the place where workers have the most potential power, if they only realize it.

We need to be organizing in the Industrial Workers of the World, I.W.W. Joining in class collaborationist unions like the A.F.L. only leads us down blind allies. What is needed is to get the working class organized in to ONE BIG UNION, not just nationally, but internationally. The I.W.W. is a union of class conscious revolutionary workers intent upon abolishing the wage system, and we realize that the working class and the capitalist parasite class have nothing in common. Dues are inexpensive, and the power of the union resides in the hands of the rank 'n' file. The short term aims of the I.W.W. are of course to win workers better pay and conditions in the present capitalist context, but the most important aim is to organize the industrial strength of the working class to such an extent as to one day be able to lock the boss class out in one massive general strike! At that point we begin to run the industries for all, and not just for the profit of a few. By building the I.W.W. we will be "building the new society in the shell of the old."

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

This also falls somewhat under the heading of building a new society within the shell of the old, and can cover a wide range of activities.

Many working class families can barely afford to pay their rents. No one should have to pay for a place to hang their hat and keep the rain and cold off. The organizing of rent strikes and collective reduction of rents would be an empowering project for communities to engage in, freeing up funds for more useful pursuits. As well, direct actions against the gentrification of old neighborhoods is needed. At present in many cities, big firms are buying up houses in poor neighborhoods, bulldozing them (as well as their trees) and building drab concrete condos to rent to rich folk marginalizing poor people in the process. Support should also be given to squatter's movements who seek to renovate abandoned buildings and their grounds creating rent free communities.

The libertarian socialist/anarchist movement needs to become involved in the struggles communities of color face, and extend a hand to them. We should support and create organizations such as COP WATCH in order to keep an eye on and combat police brutality by those sworn to "protect and serve." Perhaps we could even one day create cop free zones. At the same time, people in communities can learn and practice ethical communication and dispute resolution, as well as non-authoritarian ways to stop working class on working class crime-alternatives to utilizing the state's police forces. We could also work to create some economic empowerment within communities by creating coops, growing community gardens and helping one another in myriad ways. Groups like FOOD NOT BOMBS who feed homeless people stuck out on the streets could also work at helping to get them organized in the I.W.W. so that whenever they go in for jobs at temporary labor pools, they are organized to get a better wage.

And finally, people can create in their communities autonomous zones in which to come together for community events, whether it be to discuss revolution or to put on community theater-far preferable to sitting at home watching the idiot box like our masters wish.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS PRISONER SUPPORT

Prisons and the police forces are part of the state's social control mechanisms. As we build a more effective movement, no members of whatever revolutionary organization will be exempt from police repression and imprisonment. This is why it is important that all revolutionary organizations realize the importance of supporting a strong A.B.C. network. It will be as it already is an important integral part of a revolutionary program to support class war prisoners. The A.B.C. should also work to support social prisoners with the intent of helping them to gain political consciousness and be assets to the revolutionary movement. At present the A.B.C. and P.P.W.C. are barely able to stay afloat. Get involved! The A.B.C.s should be about prison abolition. As we organize industrially and in our communities, we will ourselves be about policing ourselves making prisons and police superfluous and useless. Since we won't have or need them in a post capitalist society, why not work towards their abolition now!

POLITICAL PARTY

Of course, no anarchist considers voting for a capitalist party an option. The "lesser of two evils" argument doesn't wash with anarchists and both major parties in the U.S. are the puppets of capital. In fact, anarchists for various reasons, most of them good, shun electoral politics altogether. Historically the argument goes back to the split between Bakunin and the anarchists and Marx at the 1st Socialist International in 1870 over the issue of capturing state power first (Marx, utilizing the ballot) or smashing the state outright (Bakunin, using strikes and mass insurrections). Bakunin's argument was basically that people who gain positions of power tend to maximize that power, thus becoming despotic and tyrannical. In short, power corrupts, not excepting socialists. Unfortunately, Marx was somewhat nebulous in his writings about how long it was to take the "state to wither away" once the political state was captured by the working class. Later Marxist-Leninist programs certainly tend to favor of Bakunin's position, although it is also certain that Marx never intended for anything approaching a Leninist type state capitalist dictatorship to come to pass.

Anarchists have a long history of clashes with state socialists of different varieties, even though they have also at times worked in solidarity with them. State socialists come basically in two varieties, one of which advocates reformism of capitalism (the piecemeal reform of capitalism towards a progressive, gradualist evolutionary arrival at socialism) including nationalization of industries, and social welfare programs. This type of socialism (Social Democracy) and its politicians only end up being coopted by capitalism. Although a more benign form of capitalism, Social Democracy actually ends up becoming a brake on real working class revolutionary activity, as it will use the police and the military in order to quell strikes and direct action protests. Although these parties may have at one time been revolutionary, they only end up running capitalism for the bosses now. Some examples are the Green Party, and your Social Democratic governments in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

(cont. on next pg.)



FW James Rowan

Other state socialists derive from the Marxist-Leninist variety, including Trotskyites, Maoists, and all manner of Stalinists. They are all authoritarian and seek state power for the purpose of setting up state capitalist dictatorships in which a centralized party and bureaucracy plan and run the state and the economy from the apex of the state hierarchy. At the bottom, all the workers are forced to carry out their dictates. Needless to say, civil liberties are severely repressed in these governments, which are, to say the least totally repugnant to anarchists.

Anarchists are right to shun these types of parties, but does all of this suffice as reason for a total abstinence from electoral politics on the part of anarchists? No! In order to construct a real working class effective and comprehensive revolutionary movement, a libertarian socialist party will be a great asset.

By libertarian socialist party, I do not mean one which is reformist, nor one which seeks state power in order to maintain state power as in Marxist-Leninism. Both are inimical to the libertarian communist/socialist vision of a stateless, moneyless, society of free access.

By libertarian socialist is meant, a party which is leaderless, unhierarchical, totally democratically structured, and which has as its sole objective to gain a majoritarian vote at the polls, so that once elected it may set about the immediate dismantling of the state and the capitalist system. Working in conjunction with revolutionaries on other fronts, it may then help to usher in a production for human association. As mentioned above, no one can predict which revolutionary method will work the surest, but even if the electoral method does not turn out to be the unequivocal deciding factor in dealing with state power, it will work well in combination with other initiatives. By no means should party organizing be seen as a passive substitute for other forms of organizing.

In order to build a majoritarian movement, it will be necessary to get our ideas more effectively transmitted into the mainstream consciousness of everyday people. Having competent socialists publically debate with capitalist politicians, putting forth the irrefutable logic of the socialist position will work well towards this end. In fact, working in concert with other initiatives, it may help to build the revolutionary momentum that makes socialism truly an idea whose time has come.

At present there exist some parties which come close to the ideal I advocate. They have no class conscious solid members, yet they fall short of the mark in some respects, mostly theoretical and methodological inflexibility. The U.S.P.U.S. basically theorizes that the ballot is all that is necessary to achieve socialism, shuns direct action, and doesn't quite grasp the notion of a totalist revolution on all fronts. This is chimeric because, any serious revolutionary party will require to be backed up both industrially and in the streets. The New Unionist Party somewhat fetishizes nonviolence, and by implication legalism. Nonviolence is a fairly nebulous term that could include all manner of activity, including direct action, or even self defense. Such a stance is reminiscent of the old reformist S.P.U.S.'s expulsion of I.W.O. for advocating sabotage and

direct action. No party, no matter how much it clings to legalism will be exempt from police repression once it becomes a palpable threat to the capitalist hegemony. Such a bent precludes struggle which will gain working class respect. Any revolutionary party worth its salt will have to get its feet wet once and awhile.

It remains to be seen whether or not these parties will be able to transcend their ideological straightjackets and get solid with other groups moving along the same path. Either way, a libertarian socialist party will be important. Such a party ideally would struggle right along side direct actionists, work in close solidarity with revolutionary unionists and community organizers. Whether it be direct action against police brutality, clear-cutting, or toxic racism, libertarian socialists can help to stave off these immediate encroachments of capitalism while helping to bring the victims to a clear revolutionary perspective.

At present, unfortunately, Marxist-Leninist parties fill to a great extent this void misleading people into believing that the totalitarian state, complete with secret police, gulags, and BIG BROTHER equals socialism. Anarchists also have their ideological straightjackets though if they refuse to rationally consider the idea of a libertarian socialist party simply because of dogmatic anarchist orthodoxy. That type of conformity should be questioned rationally by anarchists, not to be too heretical or anything.

DEMOS, DIRECT ACTION IN THE STREETS

The working class needs to take to the streets whenever possible. It needs to flex its collective might and make a showing. It's an empowering experience for its members to become cognizant of its mass power in the streets. "Who's streets!" Our streets!

Protests and direct action are statements and deeds which send a clear message that people are standing for their ideals against the injustices of the system. Direct actions expose injustice, get people to ask what all the fuss is about, and expose people to new ideas. The ruling class likes to keep us all in our own little square box hovels, watching television drives, stupid, passive, and out of touch with what is really going on and with one another. And on top of that stupor is the lid of the police forces, always a tacit threat in the back of our minds when we walk the streets. The stupor needs to boil over more often and it has been more frequently I'm glad to say. This ruling class and their monopoly on the media and ideas try their best to make sure it is only their words and deeds which are the last heard. When we take to the streets, we ensure that theirs is not the only voice or action heard. If we keep going out into our streets en masse, it may be that one fine day we'll find that there will be a whole lot more of us than there are of them. Then we will drown out the voice of capitalist tyranny forever!

Consider these ideas! Work to build the solidarity needed to build a real revolutionary movement, and jettison the baggage that prevents this! CR

OUR DAY WILL COME!!!

THE UNCONQUERABLE IDEA

by Ayatollah Khan

When a person studies mathematics he learns that there are many mathematical laws which determine the approach he must take to solving the problems presented to him.

In the study of geometry one of the first laws a person learns is that 'The whole is not greater than the sum of its parts.' This means that one, simply, cannot have a geometrical figure such as a circle or a square which contains more than it does when broken down into smaller parts. Therefore, if all the smaller parts add up to a certain amount, the entire figure cannot add up to a larger amount. The prison cannot

have a victory over the prisoner because those in charge take the same kind of approach and assume that if they have the whole body in a cell that they have contained all that makes up the person. But a prisoner is not a geometrical figure, and an approach which is successful in mathematics is wholly unsuccessful when dealing with Human Beings!

In the case of the Human Being, we are not dealing only with the single individual. We are also dealing with the ideas and beliefs which have motivated him and which sustain him, even when his body is confined. In the case of Humanity, the whole is greater, much greater than its parts because the whole includes the body which is measurable and confinable and the ideas which cannot be measured or confined.

These prisons operate with the concept that since it has a person's body, it has the entire being, because the whole cannot be greater than the sum of its parts. They put the body in a cell and seem to get some sense of relief and security from that fact. The idea of prison victory, then, is that when the person incarcerated begins to act, think, and believe the way they want him to, they have won the battle and the person is then REHABILITATED! But this cannot be the case because those that operate the prison have failed to examine their own beliefs thoroughly, and they fail to understand the types of people they attempt to control. This leaves no victory for the system.

There are two types of prisoners. The larger number are those who accept the legitimacy of the assumptions upon which the society is based. They wish to acquire the same goals as everybody else: Money, Power and Conspicuous consumption!

In order to do so, they adopt techniques and methods which the society has defined as illegitimate. When this is discovered, such people are put in jail/prison. They may be called 'illegitimate capitalists' since their aim is to acquire everything this capitalist society defines as legitimate.

The second type of prisoner is the one who rejects the legitimacy of the assumptions upon which the society is based. He argues that people at the bottom of the society are exploited for the profit and advantage of those at the top. This second type of prisoner

says that society is corrupt and illegitimate and must be overthrown. We are called Political Prisoners! We cannot accept the legitimacy of this society and cannot participate in its corrupting exploitation, in prison or out in the streets.

This prison system cannot gain a victory over the political prisoner because he has nothing to be rehabilitated, from or to. He or she refuses to accept the legitimacy of the system and refuses to participate, to participate is to admit that society is legitimate because of its exploitation of the oppressed. This is the idea which the political prisoner does not accept. This is the idea for which he or she has been put into prison.

The dignity and beauty of the Political Prisoner rests in the human spirit which makes that person more than simply a physical being. This spirit must never be suppressed from exploitation by others. As long as the people recognize the beauty of their human spirits and move against suppression and exploitation, they will be carrying out one of the most beautiful ideas of all time. Because the human whole is much greater than the sum of its parts.

This prison system can never be victorious because walls, bars and prison guards CANNOT conquer or hold down an ideal!

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Coalition for Prisoners' Rights/
Prison Project of Santa Fe
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1911



FW Leo Laukki

On Apathy and Egalitarianism

by: Rick Mogan

In the development of an egalitarian world, there remains an insidious mindset withering among us that we must all endeavor to eradicate: apathy.

Apathy mumbles, "Why bother?" Apathy would have one avoid a challenge, eliminate useful confrontation, and moreover allows the deep reaching roots of numbing slothfulness to establish themselves in one's soul. And frankly, once rooted firmly in a state of abject apathy, there is but little hope that the person so affected will awaken from their slumber. Indeed, as oft is the scenario, only a major life event is likely to overcome it and thus free them from their respective fears and anxieties. This is truly sad, for why must we ever introduce senseless tragedy into our lives in order to spur us into action?

Apathy opens wide its mouth to speak and flexes its muscles to act; yet cobwebs of disillusionment form and quickly choke the speech, arthritis' fears decimate the limbs, and soon all is lost and the revolutionary is left unarmed and defeated.

Apathy then is a type of self-surrender. Why is this? I should suspect that we as a society have become too distanced from our emotional centers and thus have become desensitized. No longer do the pictures of starvation's distended bellies shock our consciences enough; no longer does the poverty of third world countries alarm us; no longer does capitalism's exploitation of children and the poor stir us. We need be ashamed if so. We need hang our heads and question to what uncharted territory our compassion has flown.

Emotion is the chief source of all becoming-conscious. There can be no transforming of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotion. While reason would appear to dictate to our logic friendly minds that emotion must be in large part stymied, it is more so true that

a strict self-control is rather an excuse to stand idly by and fiddle as Rome burns. And yet, without a cause, a mission, how could we reasonably expect anyone to become emotional? Without compassion, how can we translate our pitiful sighs into useful policy? We should recapture our emotion, treasure it and let it compel us to action.

A society that is equitable for all, while indeed a noble goal, cannot be realized by this breed of destructive apathy. The aforementioned has permitted untold millions of innocents to suffer horribly in the torturous ovens of Hitler's Nazi Germany while the world looked on in stupefied wonder; it permitted the killing fields of Pol Pot's Cambodia to blood-saturate the land; it permits the global problems of mass starvation to fester and also presently allows the

self-righteous moralizers of western capitalism's corporations to imprison a slave class made up of the poor and afflicted while mercilessly exploiting them for shameless profit, both home and abroad. All of these acts are unconscionable, some admittedly more than others. And yet, do they not all have an all too common denominator the dastardly spirit of apathy?

The ineffective pings of a few bomb throwers and antagonists against the bulwark of capitalism aside, there exists ample room for united global activity to overcome the machinery of greed. It feeds on our sweat and blood after all. When will we say enough is enough? Some of us have said no more, some of us remain in limbo, and still others have become detached from emotion. Unless we successfully incorporate a corroborative unity in our valiant struggle against the onslaught of needless greed, where we are, we shall no doubt fall in our efforts to prevail with an egalitarian society. Thus to nurture apathy, to remain unaffected emotionally, is tantamount to conceding defeat and so becoming another hapless victim waiting to be further trampled on and abused.

But there is hope.

Hope begins with you the reader. It takes vision to accrue hope. Hope is rarely born out of any indirect casualness, but rather must be shared with others in order to inspire good people to action. As supporters of an egalitarian society, we need pursue a course of action that promotes our hopes and dreams, and thus shares our vision of an equitable society where everyone is recognized, not just the usual assortment of the rich and powerful. We should share our vision with friends, family and co-workers, providing them with a renewed hope that is not only attainable, but which rests in each individual's hands to act on today.

For far too long the masses of the world have sat idly by while the incessant waves of greed and oppression have hammered against their respective houses. Their foundations have, will, or are crumbling under the burdensome heft of capitalism's greedy machinations. More and more, men and women, children too, wherever they are in the world, are being squeezed from their elusive dreams by the oppressive corporate economies. They are thus forced to join the ranks of

EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

After several years of inactivity, an Emergency Response Network (ERN) has been relaunched to facilitate action among prison activists, supporters and campaigns.

The ERN last had a presence in North America in 1989. '90, then aged to the mid-'90s, before fading quickly. Situations calling for some sort of emergency response by non-prisoners range from hungerstrikes, lockdowns, punitive transfers where regular contact with a prisoner is lost, action on behalf of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, political trials and prosecutions, criminal justice issues and more, up to and including major incidents like hostage-taking or takeovers. The ERN now has a global focus, and is centered around action for all prisoners.

All concerned individuals, groups and campaigns are encouraged to submit information to the ERN list. It's hoped that, when joining the ERN, you will take time out of your day and make a point of acting on alerts as well as circulating them among other activists and other venues. The old ERN called for a number of groups to organize as coordinators in their regions, who in turn would be connected to a regional network of activists. If you're working with others in your area, take time to share ERN actions and get them involved. Due to high mailing costs, the ERN circulates its alerts via email, but activists everywhere are encouraged to distribute hardcopy ERN alerts and organize people in their areas. The abcf-ern list was initiated by Houston ABC-SG of the Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF). The ABCF is a six-year-old revolutionary formation striving for the support, defense and freedom of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Check out the Anarchist Black Cross Federation online at <http://www.abcf.net> or see Houston ABC-SG at <http://www.houstonabc.org>.

TO SUBSCRIBE, Send a blank email to abcf-ern-subscribe@groups.com.

TO SEND AN ALERT TO THE ERN, Send your urgent actions to abcf-ern@groups.com.

TO MAIL AN ALERT TO THE ERN

Prisoner or without net access? Send an alert or report to the ERN via postal mail for distribution: Houston ABC-SG, P.O. Box 667233, Houston, Tx. 77266-7233.

FOR LATEST ALERTS IN PRINT

Contact a local Anarchist Black Cross Fed. group. Touch base with Houston ABC-SG to find a local.

START A LOCAL ABCF GROUP

Get involved in the movement to free Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Send \$10 for an ABCF starter kit to: Jacksonville ABC-BG, 4204 Merschel St., #20, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Apathy and Egalitarianism
cont. on pg. 10

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY!



OCTOBER 22 WEAR BLACK

8



FW Vincent St. John



LAWS OF THE PARASITE CLASS

by
Gulf Coast Red

The master class has historically used many methods to derail working class solidarity, especially when revolution seems likely. Initiating reforms to class bribery is one method. War is another which allows our masters to marshal the proletariat of different countries into their armed forces, soften class conflict, kill off a substantial amount of workers, and make lots of money for the war profiteers. Passing anti-worker legislation is another method, such as at present in England, the government is busy trying to pass "anti-terrorist" legislation that is intended to nearly criminalize any kind of dissent whatsoever.

The last couple of years have had some pretty heartening sparks of working class revolt surge forth all over the world. The anarchist movement is starting to grow, and the government is aware of this. We will have to be prepared to withstand whatever laws they may concoct to bring us down. What follows is an historical account of the Espionage Act, used to break up worker's organizations early in the 20th Century.

In the U.S., in 1917, President Wilson got us into the 1st World War. It was an extremely unpopular war, and working class sentiment was dead against it. Due to the low turnout of volunteers (some 650,000 conscientious objectors opted out for non-combat service) the government introduced conscription.

Popular anti-war sentiment at this time drew many Americans into the ranks of the Socialist Party, which made enormous gains at the polls, especially in the midwestern states. The very day after Congress declared war, The Socialist Party called an emergency convention and called the declaration of war "a crime against the people of The United States."



FW Ben Fletcher

Agitation against the war by anarchists, passivists, I.W.W.s, and Socialists intensified, and as a result, in June of 1917, Congress and President Wilson passed some extremely reactionary legislation known as the Espionage Act. Ostensibly the Act looked as though it were aimed at spies and government infiltrators, yet, tacked onto it was a clause which stipulated up to 20 years in prison for "whomever, when the U.S. is at war, shall wilfully cause, or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty in the military or naval forces of the United States, or shall wilfully obstruct recruiting or enlistment in the service of the U.S...."

The Espionage Act was designed and used to imprison people who spoke against the war, but even more, it was used by the ruling class as a weapon to try and bust up revolutionary organizations.

Particularly the Industrial Workers of the World. American revolutionaries were well aware that it was a boss's war. Having learned of the mass carnage on the battlefields of Europe, where hundreds of thousands of fellow workers had been sacrificed for capitalism, they agitated harder.

Two months subsequent to the Espionage Act's passing, Charles Schenk, a socialist, was arrested in Philadelphia for printing and distributing 15,000 leaflets which vehemently denounced both the war and the draft. The leaflet stated that conscription was a violation of the 13th Amendment protection against "involuntary servitude"; and that conscription was a "monstrous deed against humanity in the interests of the financiers of Wall Street" and he exhorted people "not to submit to intimidation."

Schenk received one of the shortest (six months in jail) sentences meted out for violation of the Espionage Act. Thousands more received up to 20 years. Yet Schenk appealed his case and stated that the Espionage Act violated the First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech, or press." The Supreme Court ruled against Schenk. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, wrote that the leaflet was intended to obstruct the draft, wrote, in his famous judicial ruling, "The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre, and causing panic. The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent." Justice Holmes's ruling served the parasite class well. Could there be more clear and present danger than a government sending thousands to the slaughter in a war they had no interest in? Historian Howard Zinn notes that Schenk's act was "more akin to a person standing outside of a theatre, shouting, not falsely, to the people about to buy tickets, that there is a fire raging inside."

The Industrial Workers of the World, I.W.W. were at the time, giving hell to the timber barons of the Pacific Northwest, as well as the copper bosses in Arizona and Montana, among other industries we were organizing quite well in. The boss class complained to the government that the I.W.W. was hindering up vital war materials. The I.W.W. knew that workers in one

country had no reason to kill workers from other lands and that our real beef was with the bosses. With regards to the war, I.W.W. man Big Bill Haywood remarked, "It's better to be a traitor to one's country than to one's class." The I.W.W.'s (also known as The WOBBLIES) sentiments towards the war could be summed up well in this Wobbly song, sung to the tune of Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward Christian Soldiers! Duty's way is plain. Slay your Christian neighbors, or by then be slain.

Pulpiters are spouting effervescent swill, God above is calling you to rob, and rape and kill, All your acts are sanctified by the Lamb on high; If you love the Holy Ghost, go murder, pray, and die."

MISSOURI

Jerome White-Bey #37479
Potosi Corr. Center
Rt. 2 Box 2222
Mineral Point, MO 63660

Prison
Labor
Union

In early September of 1917, raids on 48 I.W.W. halls occurred across the nation. 165 I.W.W. delegates were arrested for conspiring to hinder the draft, encourage desertion, and intimidation in connection with the labor disputes. 101 Wobblies went to trial in 1918, which lasted about five months. The charges had been based on speeches and articles in the Wobbly press, for example, in the Industrial Worker, "Capitalists of America, we will fight against you, not for you! Conscription! There is not a power in the world that can make the working class fight if they refuse!"

John Reed, the socialist writer who wrote "Ten Days That Shook The World" about the Russian Revolution covered the trial. He wrote of the defendants, "I doubt if ever in history there has been a sight just like them. One hundred and one lumberjacks, harvest hands, miners, editors... who believe the wealth of the world belongs to him who creates it... the outdoor men, the hard-rock blasters, tree-fellers, wheat binders, longshoremen, the boys who do the strong work of the world."

The Wobblies also used the trial to get their ideas across. One Wobbly spoke to the court "You ask me why the I.W.W. is not patriotic to the United States. If you were a bum without a blanket; if you had left your wife and kids when you went out west for a job, and had never located them since; if your job had never kept you in a place long enough to qualify you to vote; if you had slept in a lousy sour bunkhouse, and ate food just as rotten as they could give you and get by with it; if deputy sheriffs shot your cooking cans full of holes and spilled your grub on the ground; if your wages were lowered on you when the bosses thought they had you down; if every person who represented law and order and the nation beat you up, railroaded you to jail, and the good Christian people told them to go to it, how the hell do you expect a man to be patriotic? The war is a business man's war, and we don't see why we should go out and get shot to save this lovely state of affairs we now enjoy."

The jury found them all guilty, sentencing 15 to 20 years, 33 to 10 years, and the rest to shorter sentences. The I.W.W. was also fined \$2,500, 000!

(cont. on next page)

BEWARE

GOOD PAY = BUM WORK

I.W.W.



ONE BIG UNION

WE NEVER FORGET

SABOTAGE



Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network

9 818 SW 3rd Avenue PMB #354 Portland OR 97204 USA

Most people are unaware that Helen Keller was a member of the I.W.O.. In 1910 she wrote, "Whether the I.W.O. increases in power or is crushed out of existence, the spirit that animates it is the spirit that must animate the labor movement if it is to have a revolutionary function."

Anarchists Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman were both sentenced to prison for agitation against the draft. Emma addressed the jury, "Verily, poor as we are in democracy how can we give it to the world?... a democracy conceived in the military servitude of the masses, in their economic enslavement, and nurtured in their tears and blood, is not democracy at all. It is despotism—the cumulative result of a chain of abuses which, according to that dangerous document the Declaration of Independence, the people have a right to overthrow."

President Wilson had laid it on thick with the nationalist propaganda about how after the war, the workers would enjoy democracy and share in the wealth of the rich. The war killed 10 million workers, and created some 20,000 new millionaires. Only the upper crust shared in much of the "post war prosperity."

Another more commendable politician, however, Eugene Victor Debs, who ran for president five times on the Socialist Party ticket, had an ingrained hatred of war. He had witnessed as a boy in Terre Haute, Indiana, the maimed, crippled and sick of the Civil War. Debs' "in bourgeois wars, the revolutionary elements are shoved into the first line trenches to shoot off one another's heads and at the same time, shoot off the head of the revolution, and thereby restore the status quo for another indefinite period." President Wilson urged Congress in 1915 to consider "military preparedness." Debs rallied in press and in public speech, "Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder... and that is war in a nutshell. The master class has always declared the wars; and the subject class has always fought the battles."

Of the many leaflets Debs wrote in opposition to the First World War, this one happened to find its way into the Attorney General's Office.

NEVER BE A SOLDIER, by E. Debs Aug. 1915
Working men are forced into war as working women are forced into prostitution. Let us think for a moment! The working man who turns soldier today becomes the hired assassin of the capitalist master. He goes on the murderer's payroll at fifty cents a day, under orders to kill anybody, anywhere, anytime. To refuse to brain his own mother in a hunger strike is treason to his pot-bellied master! This is the vile and abject thing we call a soldier, lower than the slimy ripping depths in which this craven creature crawls, neither man nor beast can ever sink in time or eternity. Let us think for a moment!

DEBS



"CONVICT No. 9653"

War is the crimson carnival where the drunken devils are unchained, and the snarling dogs are "sicked" upon one another by their brutal masters; where they shoot off one another's heads, rip open one another's bellies, and receive their baptism of patriotic devotion to their master's anointed moneybags in a thousand spurting geysers of their own blood, brains and guts.

Working Men and Working Women of America! Let us swear by all that is dear to us and all that is sacred to our cause, never to become a soldier, and never to go to war!

If the pot-bellied masters insist upon the the Crim-son carnival, the Devil's Bloody Debauch, they will henceforth rip out their own loins and livers, riot in their own blood and entrails and offer up their own mangled and putrescent carcasses on the blood drenched altar of Mars and Mammon!

The dastard jingoes even now are plotting to force the United States into the seething maelstrom of fire and slaughter, pestilence and famine, misery and hell. Every subtle agency known to their infernal ingenuity is being employed to accomplish their satanic design. The working men of America have it in their power to foil this monstrous policy; to slay the demon of destruction and put an end to war here and everywhere, now and forevermore.

They have but to stand up like men and in the commanding voice of their class and the eternal glory of their cause proclaim the fiat of civilization and humanity: LET THERE BE PEACE!!!!

Eugene Debs paid no heed to the Espionage Act. Most magazines would no longer print his articles, for fear of losing their second class mailing privileges, yet Debs kept on. Socialists in Canton Ohio invited Debs to speak at their state convention, June 16, 1918. Many of the Ohio socialist leaders had already been jailed for anti-war agitation, a few of whom were in the Canton Jail across the street from where the speak-stand had been constructed. After visiting some comrades in jail, Debs addressed a crowd of 1,200, which was also infested with feds., Debs pointed to the jail, "I have just returned from a visit over yonder; they have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right to free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world."

Further on in the speech, Debs mentioned that "The working class furnishes the corpses, but never has a voice in declaring war or making peace." As well, "Workers should know that they exist for something better than slavery and cannon fodder." These and some other choice statements were enough to get Debs arrested under the Espionage Act.

Debs' trial was held Sept. 18, 1918, in Cleveland Ohio. He didn't take the stand at his defense, but before the jury began its deliberations, he spoke thus:

"I have been accused of obstructing the war. I admit it. Gentlemen, I abhor war. I would oppose war if I stood alone... I have sympathy with the suffering struggling people everywhere. It does not make any difference what flag they were born under, or where they live..."

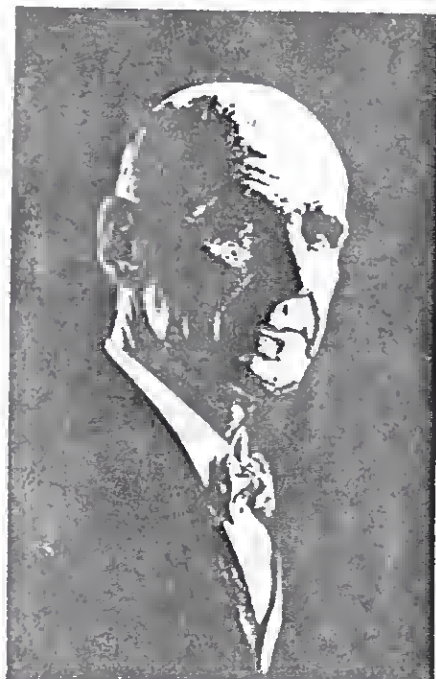
After six hours of deliberation, the jury found Debs guilty. Before sentencing, Debs addressed the judge at some length. He stated: "Your Honor, years ago I recognized my kinship with all living beings, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on earth. I said then, and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Judge Westenhaver sentenced Debs to 10 years in prison. Due to Debs' immediate appeal to the Supreme court, he did have to go immediately to prison. He continued to ignore the Espionage Act and speak out against the war. Later, Convict #9653 ran for President of the United States on the Socialist Party ticket from his prison cell, garnering some 900,000 votes, or 3.5% of the national total.

Such are the lengths the master class will go to in order to repress and persecute working class revolution. But...we're still here! CR

• • • • •

FOR PRESIDENT



EUGENE V. DEBS

(Apathy and Egalitarianism cont.)

the disillusioned, and many die both physically and spiritually. These are the people we must of a necessity not neglect. To look askance from their needless sufferings is to nod endorsement to the opposition. We should rather engage others with our dreams of an equitable society, actively and emotionally persuading them that they do matter in the grand scheme of things. And now is the time to act!

To be sure, we cannot attain this worthy goal of ours by non-action. Apathy after all, literally kills the soul. We need awaken our compassions and strive to wage fierce battle against our foes, seeking an end to a system that does not work in an equitable manner. You the reader are a potential leader. Share your vision and hope of an egalitarian society today. Empower others with our shared vision and together let's manifest our dreams into reality. Without you, we all may fail. And remember, fortuna favet fortibus - fortune favors the bold. ☺



THE COVERT GOVERNMENT by Gulf Coast Red

The United States Government is nearly always at war due to the fact that it finds itself continually having to maintain a global system based on a powerful rich minority against a poor majority, and it often uses terroristic violence toward this end. The American Constitution states that only Congress shall declare war, however, without declaring war officially, numerous acts of war have been legitimized by Congress, such as the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which allowed for the prosecution of the Viet Nam War, not to mention, funding of the CONTRAS.

The American Constitutional government and its system of checks and balances was set up by a minority class of wealthy merchants and landed gentry who basically thought that the less the popular masses had to do with government the better. They in effect set up a form of government which would be biased in favor of the elite class and in which governmental accountability to the masses would be precluded. This form of government has made possible undemocratic coalitions at the highest echelons, obscured from public view. These coalitions and alliances have been responsible for promulgating horrendous policies, both domestic and abroad, in order to secure global economic control.

Historically, elites have often worked through their own private organizations, such as the Trilateral Commission, The Council on Foreign Relations, The Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, The Committee for Economic Development, as well as numerous think tanks. They have often become an unaccountable and secret governmental force by acquiring positions within the government which has allowed them to link military intelligence with specific corporate agendas. According to Fletcher Promty, a former officer within the Defense Intelligence Agency, those who run the secret government are "security cleared individuals in and out of government who receive secret intelligence data gathered by the CIA and the National Security Agency...whose power derives from the vast intra-governmental undercover infrastructure and its direct relationships with private industries, mutual funds, investment houses, universities, the news media, and foreign and domestic publishing houses." He further mentions that during the post World War 2 era, "More and more control over military and diplomatic operations, at home and abroad, was assumed by elites whose activities are secret, whose budget is secret, and whose very identities often as not are secret."

Congress, in 1947, in order to shield elites from the pressure of public policy making, pushed through legislation which in effect created a more centralized and more covert government virtually inaccessible to the majority of people. The passage of the National Security Act spawned the CIA and the National Security Council, as well as other secret agencies allowing corporate elites covert direct control of war making policies, for the purpose of securing global corporate hegemony. The CIA became a type of covert transnational military utilized for overthrowing governments and ouelling popular revolutions which stood in the way of corporate expansion and control abroad.

Article I, Sec. 7 of the Constitution states that "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives" yet in order to hide key economic decisions from the public, Congress passed on some revenue decision making to the executive branch and more obscure channels. In 1921, the Bureau of Budget was created, allowing for coordination of departmental funding requests. In 1939, the Bureau was moved to the Executive Office of the President and became the Office of Management and Budget, allowing private elites and the President to originate revenue bills and use the budget to control executive bureaucracies. The National Security Council sets budgetary guidelines for the Defense Dept., and in 1949, Congress gave the CIA permission to transfer and receive funds from various government agencies to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget-relegating much of U.S. war making policy above the popular will.

At the end of WWI and during the initial yrs. of the Russian Revolution, western elites were terrified of the revolution spreading west. Workingclass enthusiasm for the revolution was global and even popular in America as exemplified by the 1919 Seattle general strike which shut the whole city down for weeks. The western elites saw as their best bet the rearmament of Germany as a bulwark against Russia. The Versailles Treaty imposed harsh reparations on Germany, therefore, in order to sidestep this and enable Germany to reindustrialize, bankers such as J.P. Morgan, Charles G. Dawes, and Owen D. Young, with complete governmental support, came up with the Dawes Young Plan. This consisted of a series of generous loans which allowed for German reparation and had the effect of strengthening Germany's three largest firms, I.G. Farben, United Steel, and German General Electric (39% owned by American G.E.) I.G. Farben, closely tied to Standard Oil, a huge pharmaceutical company and chemical conglomerate, remained, even after Pearl Harbor, the most immanent firm in Nazi Germany. I.G. Farben, responsible for producing gas for the Nazi Final Solution in German death camps, also built a synthetic fuel and rubber plant at Auschwitz utilizing slave labor.

Of two brothers elite, John Foster Dulles who would become Sec. of State under Eisenhower, and Allen Dulles who would become head of CIA under Eisenhower, John F. Dulles was special counsel to the Dawes Committee and both brothers were partners in Sullivan and Cromwell which handled legal affairs for American I.G., the U.S. subsidiary of I.G. Farben. Both were neck deep in involvement with U.S. and German banks and firms which contributed to Nazi buildup, and which also traded with the enemy during WW2. Firms such as Chase Bank, Ford, ITT, General Aniline and Film as well as Standard Oil, are a few examples. Hitler's two largest tank producers, Adam Opel and Ford of Cologne, were wholly owned subsidiaries of G.M. and the Ford Motor Co. ITT not only worked on Hitler's communications systems and worked on the technology of Nazi robot bombs, they also built the Focke Wulfs which bombed allied troops. Curtis-Wright Aviation Co. helped the German airforce develop secret dive bombing techniques as well as supplied the German airforce with aviation parts sorely needed by U.S. aircraft.

U.S. Nazi collaboration was a fusion of private interests, with their secret networks and organizations colluding with and sometimes being people in government agencies, for example, Dean Acheson as Sec. of State and former Standard Oil lawyer, in working with the Treasury Department, issued licenses allowing Standard Oil to trade with Nazi collaborators.

Towards the end of WW2, members of Hitler's SS (Schutzstaffel) or defense squads, who were directly involved in the genocidal Final Solution, and the S.D. Intelligence Service endeavored to do away with Hitler and install Himmler, of whom they were adherents. Realizing that Germany would be defeated, they sought to restore the German aristocracy and German capitalism which they envisioned as the 4th Reich. Allen Dulles, in 1944 and 1945 (a close associate and legal advisor of international banker Kurt Von Schroeder who had financed Himmler's inner circle) entered into separate agreements with Waffen SS General Karl Wolff, a man responsible for thousands of murders, and Walter Rauf who designed and built the gas ovens of Auschwitz. Wolff was later employed by Dulles on anti-communist activities. As Germany capitulated, Dulles, without the backing of Roosevelt, set to work forming a police force against communism utilizing ex Nazis.

Subsequent to the war, Dulles argued that the German state had to remain in existence to maintain order and argued for a strengthened western capitalist alliance against Bolshevism. He conceived of a post war Germany as a high income zone, with developed markets, in which no Jews were returned to places of power. The reinstatement of ex Nazis to positions of power, and corporate support, enabled the realization of the Nazi 4th Reich vision to come to fruition.

The goal of American elites of course, was global economic domination. The Council on Foreign Relations, composed of academics, corporate elites, and lawyers already mapped out blocks of production and trade and how to strategically access them for the purpose of world control. The C.F.R. also helped spawn such class war tools of domination as The World Bank and The International Monetary Fund-institutions which today wreak impoverishment on peoples the world over.

After the war, Hitler's Chief of Soviet Intelligence Reinhard Gehlen, an SS war criminal, made a deal with the U.S. government to supply anti-communist intelligence as long as he was allowed to maintain his own autonomous operation.

His entire organization was eventually transposed from the 3rd Reich into the American government being incorporated into the nucleus of the CIA.

Dulles and other U.S. officials allowed numerous sadistic murderers such as Gehlen, Joseph Mengele, Klaus Barbie, and Adolf Eichman to escape justice and take refuge in Latin America. Many ex-Nazis would later link up and become part of fascist groups and governments in Latin America, collaborating with CIA operatives, and repressing popular elections and revolutions in line with the right wing corporate agenda. Klaus Barbie himself became extremely involved in the drug trade. The legacy of corporate, CIA, Nazi collaboration has left thousands of graves in its wake and subjected workers to tyrannical dictators such as the infamous Pinochete.

Ex SS Gehlen was called upon to create a guerrilla mercenary army in order to penetrate Soviet block states. Allen Dulles was part of this army's conception, which was known as the Green Berets (The Green Berets (initially part of the CIA, and later the U.S. Army) were first trained in Germany and Fort Bragg North Carolina by U.S. officers, German Wehrmacht, and Waffen SS NCOs. Since, U.S. Special Forces have trained groups to practice torture and assassination as well as being practitioners themselves (Viet Nam Operation Phoenix-20,000 to 100,000 assassinations) in places like Laos, Viet Nam, and Latin America. The incorporation of fascist methodology into American paramilitary policy is well exemplified by this Salvadoran soldier's eye witness account. "The officers said 'we are going to teach you how to mutilate, and how to teach a lesson to these guerrillas. The officers who were teaching us this were the Green Berets...they began to torture this young fellow. They took out their knives and stuck them under his fingernails. After they took his fingernails off, they broke his elbows. Afterwards they gouged out his eyes. They took their bayonets and made all sorts of slices on his skin...Then they took his hair off and the skin of his scalp. When they saw there was nothing left to do with him, they threw gasoline on him and burned him...The next day they started the same thing with a 13 yr. old girl."

The concept of the "death squad" was suggested in 1962, by General William Yarborough, head of Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg. The method is utilized many times through the benign sounding U.S. Office of Public Safety, which is a division of the even less nefarious sounding Agency of International Development.

"I'm from the government..

I.R.S. B.A.T.F. F.B.I. F.D.A. C.I.A. D.E.A.



"I'm here to help you"

cont.
on
next
page.

In 1948, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal became worried at the possibility of communists winning the 1948 Italian elections. Mr. Forrestal himself had collaborated with the Nazis due to his relations with the banking Co. Dillon Read, which helped finance Hitler. He and Allen Dulles urged the U.S. government to form a secret organization in order to subvert the elections. The organization was called the Office of Special Operations, and was successful in its stated purpose. In fact, it was so successful that George Kennan of the Council on Foreign Relations suggested forming the Office of Policy Coordination which was created by the National Security Council for the purpose of overthrowing governments considered to be "unfriendly" to U.S. interests. O.P.C. was later subsumed under the CIA, and monies to finance it were drawn from untraceable government accounts and laundered through certain American corporations.

In this way, we see the genesis of secret government and corporate patterns of ruthless foreign policy. At times these covert activities would go against Executive or Congressional mandate. For instance, subsequent to the Bay of Pigs fiasco, President Kennedy fired many top CIA officials, including Allen Dulles, and demanded that covert activities be brought under control of the Joint Chiefs and Department of Defense. Covert activities persisted though, particularly in Viet Nam in spite of Kennedy's orders.

In Kennedy's last days he had been gradually leading towards a policy of pulling out of Viet Nam. It is interesting that, two days after Kennedy's assassination, and Oswald's murder, all of the National Security Action Memoranda (NSAMs) stating this intention were rescinded at a secret meeting of the National Security Council, and NSAM 273 was promulgated, promoting a pro-combat position, increased troop levels, and resumption of covert activities... officially.

Secret Teams

Richard Nixon was Chief Political Officer of the National Security Council's Special group which planned the Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba. Nixon and Dulles had set up clandestine military training bases for counter-revolutionary Cubans to learn guerrilla warfare, as well as terrorist tactics to be used against the Cuban government. The code name for this outfit was Operation 40, many of whose members' names turn up connected to Iran CONTRA, and other treasonous acts.

Mafia man Santo Trafficanti, a casino and prostitution operator in Batista's Cuba, was kicked out of Cuba by Castro after the revolution. Trafficanti later joined Operation 40 in efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro, his brother Raul Castro, and Che Guevara. The Trafficanti shooter team attempted to kill Castro several times between 1960 and 1963.

Operation 40 later became Operation Mongoose, some of the members whom were arrested for importing drugs into the U.S. via Cuba. Operation Mongoose was officially shut down in 1965, but the networks of secret teams continued and their alliances even stranger.

Theodore Shackley, a CIA agent and part of Operation Mongoose, and who had also previously worked with the Nazi Gehlen, was transferred with his Deputy, Thomas Clines to Laos where Shackley was made Deputy Chief of Station for the CIA. During their grim days in Laos, Shackley and Clines provided U.S. air support for opium lord Yang Pao who was fighting to gain control of the opium trade in Laos. In turn, Yang Pao financed (with opium money) CIA training of Hmong tribesmen in guerrilla tactics, including torture and assassination, which were used against suspected communists. Some 100,000 were murdered, mostly noncombatants such as clerks, teachers and town mayors. This became S.O.G., or Special Operations Group headed by General John K. Singlaub (Oliver North was his Deputy) who supervised the assassination programs in Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Air Force General Richard Secord was Deputy Air Wing Commander for the S.O.G..

Yang Pao's revenues from heroin and opium increased as did the amounts he gave to the S.O.G.. Santo Trafficanti of Operation 40 and Operation Mongoose ended up gaining a close alliance with Yang Pao, and flooded the U.S. with pure China White heroin becoming the largest importer and distributor of this substance. After this grisley endeavor, Shackley and Clines were brought back to the west in order to head the CIA's Western Operations. Shackley and Clines then directed the assassination of Chilean President, Salvador Allende and his Chief of Staff, and orchestrated the overthrow of their democratically elected socialist government. It was a wild socialist government, akin to the one existing currently in France!

From there the duo were sent back to the east to Viet Nam where once again, fueled by Yang Pao's money, they prosecuted Operation Phoenix which entailed assassinating another 60,000 or so village administrators and noncombatants. With knowledge that the CIA assassination programs would be shut down soon in Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand, Shackley and Clines set about creating a secret team of anti-communist assassins, funded through private organizations, gun running, and drug money, which was not subject to CIA control. They began stockpiling American weapons and explosives in Thailand, and using Iran to launder Yang Pao's drug money as well as money from sales of American arms to Iran.

During the Carter Administration, the Sandinistas deposed the brutal U.S. backed dictator Anastasio Somoza. Carter had cut off funding for Somoza and deemphasized CIA covert activity in Nicaragua. At this time, Shackley and Clines had been asked to resign from the CIA after being implicated in an illegal arms deal to Libya. None of this deterred Shackley and Clines' activities. Utilizing old connections from Operation 40 and ex Nazis, the secret team offered to supply the counter-revolutionary Somocistas (CONTRAS) with weapons, aircraft, and explosives. Representatives of the secret team also offered to assassinate the leadership of the Sandinistas for \$50,000. This activity by secret teams undoubtedly involved people like Oliver North and General Secord. In fact, once President Reagan was elected (with the help of substantial campaign funds from right wing dictators anxious to get Reagan into the White House) the CIA adopted, above board, the program of private support for the CONTRAS continued by the secret teams. However, when in 1983 Congress cut off funds for the CONTRAS, Oliver North circumvented this minor legality by appealing to his old secret team cronies to resume private clandestine support for the CONTRAS. This eventually led to illegally sending arms to Iran, a vast network of strange fascist alliances, and massive amount of cocaine flooding the U.S.. This latter became known as the Iran CONTRA-CIA Cocaine scandal—a story that made Watergate look like a candy machine heist, yet was fairly buried by the corporate owned media. This scandal involved a very extensive web of alliances consisting of CIA, DEA, gun runners, dope smugglers, ex Nazis, including Oliver North setting up fake businesses with the Medellin cocaine cartel for the purpose of laundering drug money. These people are responsible for thousands of deaths, allowing thousands of tons of cocaine to hit our streets, and the mass imprisonment of thousands of poor people on drug offenses, to say nothing of the total destabilizing effect this has had on uprooting whole communities. All this so our fat cat capitalist class can preserve their vulgar wealth and authoritarian hegemony.



no one will
for bread be crying,
we'll have freedom,
love and health,
when the grand
red flag is flying
in the workers'
communist wealth!
Joe Hill
1879 - 1915

MADE IN THE SHADE

by

Gulf Coast Red

Fellow prisoners, captives, and slaves of the capitalist state. The last two decades have witnessed a gradual escalation in anti-immigrant hysteria. The I.M.S. now has built in computers in their pig-cars which can immediately check, or record the fingerprints of "aliens." Gee, like these people come from Mars or something. Stepped up border patrols, and all manner of anti-immigrant to legislation designed to criminalize people fleeing their homelands (often due to U.S. foreign economic policy) seems to be the order of the day. This is not simply a U.S. phenomenon. The same governmental anti-immigrant xenophobic trends are being practiced in western European democracies, from Ireland to Poland, and of course, such government policies help to fuel the fire of racist Nazi bone head hate groups. Such fascist groups always work on the aide of the state in order to sow the seeds of nationalism and anti-working class sentiment.

We have all seen some of our fellow and sister prisoners (sisters where are you?) locked up in the Ia. concentration camp, for spitting on the sidewalk infractions, and because they happened to be "one of them there foreigners", upon parole they end up deported to their country of origin. It makes no difference whether or not they happened to come here at the age of three, and have no family or ties of any kind in their home country. Bang! That DWI will get you a one way plane trip back to anywhere planet earth, courtesy of good ole Uncle Sam. Often times, little more than a misdemeanor charge is all the state requires to totally and arbitrarily uproot a person.

Gulf Coast Red once had a prisoner friend from Morocco who just happened to be facing a "desertion from the military charge" there. Can anyone say "firing squad!" The only upshot is, that you actually can get a last cigarette in that country, unlike L.S.. I wrote to my Moroccan friend after his deportation, yet never received a reply. One fellow prisoner I knew once came here from the U.K. when he was eight years old and grew up in L.S.. He committed some heinous crime in his youth and did twenty flat on an aggravated life, then yep...you guessed it...deported back to Merry Old England. I heard he got off the jut in his cowboy boots. I have a dozen or more friends awaiting deportation back to Me-Hi-Co, and one Iranian friend who also has the misfortune to have a desertion from the military charge awaiting him upon his forced return. That is certainly out of the frying pan and into the fire as Iran is, along China, Iraq and Texas super keen on killing states.

There is something which is sickeningly unjust about this whole process though because, as the polecat U.S. politicians whisper their ducreus from

from on high to send our working class sisters and brothers back to the countries of their birth, they at the same time provide safe havens for butchering international terrorists and death squad leaders, with police protection to boot!

For instance, if you had happened to be a pro-Batista Cuban terrorist, responsible for bombing hotels in Havana, you could end up with a nice sunny residence in Florida...home of fix an election quick Jeb Bush. That's right, or if you had just happened to be former General Jose Guillermo Garcia, head of the El Salvadorian armed forces in the 1980's, and were involved with the death squad murders of thousands of people, you could also take up residence in the Sunshine state courtesy of the U.S. Gov..

These things in Lx. gut even a foreign national the needle, provided they're working class, but such actions, if you are sucked up to the C.I.A., and a class collaborating killur, will allow you to kick it on the beach, drink Mai Tais, and sniff coke like Scarface. fact, you might even end up as neighbors with Garcia's successor, General Carlos Eugenio Vides

Casanova, head of the ruthless National Guard. The U.N. Truth Commission for El Salvador states that Vides covered up and protected soldiers who were responsible for the rape and murder of three nuns and a layperson. He was also present for the torture of an esteemed Dr. Juan Romagoza who, due to the extent of the torture was unable to ever perform surgery again. Sinca Garcia and Vides' privileged asses have been enjoying State protection stateside, many working class Salvadorians have been denied asylum here, even when facing torture or death in El Salvador.

Most working class prisoners in the U.S. had their prison college programs totally devastated when that crooked old bat, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison did away with the P.C.L.U. grants for prisoners. However, if you had been responsible for the murder of thousands of Mayan Indians and had been fined 47.5 million in damages to pay eight Guatemalans for the massacre of their family members, and a U.S. citizen for the torture of an American, Sister Dianne Ortiz, and your name just happened to be Hector Gramajo Morales, Guatemalan Defense Minister...well hell, you could get a U.S. scholarship to go to Harvard!

Plenty of Haitian working folks can't get into this country, but the U.S. will harbor a Haitian in a heartbeat if they happen to have been a terrorist for Francois "Papa Doc Duvalier" such as Luckner Cambonne, or Paul Samuel Jerome who was convicted of torturing Baby Doc Duvalier's political opponents. He escaped and now resides in the U.S.. Florida seems to be the state of choice for many of these alien torture freaks, such as Colonel Carl Dorelien, who during Aristide's exile 91-94 commanded a force of 7,000 men who carried out a butcherous campaign including, murder, rape, torture, killing some 5,000 Haitians.

Or if you liked colder climes, perhaps you could get on the C.I.A. payroll, and commit "murder with extreme regularity, torture, public beatings, arson raids on poor neighborhoods", and hey... "mutilation by machete." That's what all Haitian death squad leader Emmanuel Constant did, and he now lives in New York, and the State Dept. even refused a Haitian extradition request for him and blocked his deportation to Haiti. Now he is like Apple Dreamin. He probably lives close to Ihtoum Prastth who was a leading apologist for Pol Pot's killing feilds, and helped to...muddy the waters, so to speak. He resides in Mt. Vernon New York.

Torture and murder seem to be the name of the game as it was for Honduras' Army Battalion 316. Battalion 316 was trained by the C.I.A. and has killed hundreds of suspected leftists. Some of their members can be found residing in Florida.

Yes, its plain to see folks, crime pays if you happen to be of a certain class of rich elite. The law is plainly there to control us probes and at present, a misdemeanor traffic ticket will get an immigrant prole the good ole American boot-us in "au revoir, adios, a' check ya later." the killers for capital it seems, no matter what country they come from, can join their criminal bosses in having it made in the shade...for as long as we let them! CR

PRISON MEDICAL CARE SUBSTANDARD IT'S TIME WE KNOW OUR MEDICAL PROVIDERS by

Glenn Wright

The USA spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year on the medical care of peoples all around the globe, but forgets all about those of us locked away in prison. The care given to an inmate is this nation's attempts to eliminate those they see as expendable, the poor, black, brown, and undesirable. We're been subjected to less than acceptable treatment for medical problems, by the unqualified doctors who can't get a job or hold on to patients in the free world. We've been given a death sentence through the neglect of our keepers, not in a court of law. Inmates are treated for medical conditions only if it is time and cost efficient, and only if it won't cause a lot of work for the staff.

This treatment is in spite of statutory and/or administrative rules and regulations that say prisoners are to be given medical, and dental care, by professional staff, comparable with the same standards as people on the streets are entitled to. Another set of standards is set forth by medical accrediting agencies, such as the American Correctional Association (a pre-prison group), and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care. Each prison system else has their own rules that state we are entitled to proper and meaningful medical services. Seldom are any of these standards or rules upheld by those that provide the medical care or that supersede the care providers.

Medical professionals, however, are also governed by a higher standard than that set forth by the prisons. Each professional, even the prison doctors, nurses, and dental staff, must be licensed the state they are working in. The state sets minimum standards for these medical staff to keep their licenses. Tests must be taken, and passed, to ensure they know what they are doing, before any licenses are issued. These state boards are there to ensure, also that the professionals maintain a certain level of care to all, even prisoner, the patients they treat, and investigate complaints.

If you have attempted to get help from your medical department, and they are refusing you treatment, or providing you treatments that are not effective, or causing you more problems than you originally had, telling you they are the medical staff and know what they are doing, it's time to find out. Licenses for medical staff, even for prison medical staff, are available to the general public for the asking, this includes prisoners. You can write the state licensing board for your state and ask for the information on current licenses, and any disciplinary actions or complaints filed against the medical staff.

Sometimes you'll be surprised at what you find.

For more complete information on the medical staff, one must turn to the internet. Unfortunately, most prisoners do not have access to this vital source of information. But for those who's families or friends can run a check on the web, there is a lot of free information to be found. The American Board of Medical Specialties Public Education Program (www.certifieddoctor.org) allows you to simply plug in the doctor's name and the site will search its database of certified physicians in all states at the same time. You can also determine if a doctor has had his license suspended because of poor performance or billing fraud by checking the Physician Report Cards at www.healthgrades.com. It will even tell you if a doctor has been censured to another state, which is useful information, since a doctor whose license has been suspended in one state can still set up shop in another, or even with a prison system in another state. Doctors Who's Who (doctorswhoswho.com/medical_network) provides links to 35 state licensing boards which have information online. Another great site operated by the American Medical Association can be found at www.ama-assn.org/aps/physcred.html, this site will tell you if the doctor is board certified, completes continuing education, and where (or if) he did his transitional year and residency, as well as where he went to school and when. Often times you will find prison doctors have been educated outside of the United States and don't participate in continuing education beyond what their state requires to maintain their license. Few prison doctors will go to the trouble, or are unable to complete the requirements for, board certification. Armed with the qualifications of your doctor, you can now begin to file complaints about the lack of care you are being given. The first and most important step, even though it's the most meaningless, is that you must follow your prison grievance procedures. Under many state and federal laws, this is a mandatory step if you ever, and you probably will, have to file a state complaint or civil rights suit in court. Once you have received

your reply to the grievance, make sure you appeal it to the next higher level. Also, send a copy of your complaint to the medical department administrator, this puts him on notice that you are not being given the treatment you need, and allows him to become part of your future suits.

Once you've gotten a response to the appeal, its time to go outside of the system and file a complaint the state medical board. Those reviewing the complaint at the medical board are licensed physicians, who know the Code of Ethics that all of the doctors (including prison doctors) are bound by in that state, and if your doctor is violating these ethics.

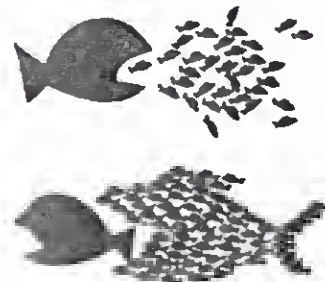
They will notify that a complaint has been filed, and is being reviewed. This alone may be enough to get you the proper care, no doctor wants to be sanctioned by the state medical board and have that become part of his licensing file. The medical department will at least take a second look at your situation, and will have to inform the medical investigators what actions they've taken to ensure you are being given the standard of care you deserve, not by prison standards, but by public standards.

Different states have different authorities who issue the licenses and investigate complaints of malpractice by doctors and nurses. Check with your law library to find out if they have a listing of state agencies, or write the Governor's Office in your state capital and ask them who regulates the activities of doctors. Some states have a single agency, such as Illinois, while others, like Ohio, have a different agency for doctors, nurses, and dentists. Make sure you check on the proper agency to handle your complaint. One of the most important things you need to remember is that this is a slow process, be patient.

Prisoners can make a difference in the quality of care they are given by the medical departments in prison. Don't think you can't. Just by reporting the unethical and harmful treatments you are being subjected to will make a difference. You have not given up your rights to good health when you were sentenced to prison. You must speak up, and have your family and friends do so too, write letters, call the administration, call the regional and central office, be heard. Once the pressure mounts on the prison officials you will see some changes being made. When it comes to your life, there is no reason to suffer in silence. Too often such treatments by medical staff result in permanent or long term disabilities, and even death.

Medical treatment for the prisoner is not a privilege, it is a right. With an ever growing prison population, and more cost cutting measures by the authorities, it is more important than ever that you know how to get the medical care you are entitled to, the care that effectively treats your problem, and the medicines that are right for you, and not simply cost effective for the institution. Don't wait for problems to arise before you do your research, find out now who the licensing agencies are, and who your doctors are. We must not let the prisons kill us off because of unqualified or unmotivated medical staff, nor because it's cost effective for them. Death by neglect was not what we were sentenced to.

For more info, write to: Glen Wright,
P.O. Box 500, Greenville, IL 62246-5000
Or South Chicago A.B.C.



FROM THE TRENCHES

Reply to Gulf Coast Red's response to Open letter from the USM in CR4

Dear Comrade,

Your reply raises a number of issues but I would like to discuss here that of class. You claim that the managerial class are not members of the working class and that cops are similarly not from our ranks. As a socialist adhering to a two class model of society I can only assume they are then members of the capitalist class. But they can't be because they both have to sell their physical and mental abilities for a wage or salary in order to live, which puts them in our ranks. I personally know managers, I went to school with guys who became cops (guys I'm still friendly with) and have many friends who are university lecturers with good incomes. All consider themselves to be members of the working class and all agree with my socialist idea for the future.

Socialists do not speak of "upper middle", "middle" or "lower middle" or the other myriad classes used by sociologists in their gradational picture of class society. We quite simply say that one's class position is determined by their position to the relations of production. We use the language that best describes the social relationships that actually matter in society; we speak of capitalist and worker, feudal lord and serf or slave and master. Neither can we accept that class relations are based on forms of technology, the level of industrialization or the technical division of labor. Members of the working class are not just blue collar workers and neither are technical workers and managers part of some upper strata of the middle class or "new petty bourgeoisie." Class relations are socially determined by reference to the property relationship and are not defined by some notion of an occupational hierarchy. Class operates in the social relations of production and not in the realm of consumption. Owning a car, your own home, going on holiday three times a year ect. does not alter the fact that you are exploited.

As you think cops are not members of the working class, would you also exclude soldiers and prison guards, along with millions working in security companies? After all, like cops, they all have remit to protect the interests of the master class. I think with an issue like class, the best way to approach the problem is as objectively as possible. You either own and control the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth, live off rent, profits or interests, or you sell yourself in order to live. I honestly fail to see any middle ground.

John Bisset

Gulf Coast Red responds

Hey John, I certainly didn't mean to imply that we at CR conceive of the working class as all being blue collar, nor that we adhere to bourgeois sociological conceptions of class, no matter how much members of our class may adhere to those mystifications and act accordingly. We basically adhere to the two class model you do, with a slight difference. You advocate keeping an objective view when regarding the question of class, but I don't think that you are being totally objective in the matter by only taking into consideration whether or not a person makes a wage or salary, as adequate criteria for determining their class position. There are other objective and historic factors we might wish to look at when considering class, not glaringly relationship to the state, state power, etc... I think that, in the case of police forces, a different tincture is added to the class picture, as opposed to other types of workers, be they chemists, rocket scientists, or dishwashers.

Although I've never met a cop I liked, including the guys I went to school with who became cops, I'm sure there are one or two in the world who are not total fascists, and I have little doubt that you would be able to persuade them of the rightness of the socialist perspective, being the good person and

speaker you are, but the plain fact is, that cops are the paid head knockers of capitalism. Marx spoke of the state as being the executors of capital. Street cops are just the lower rung on the hierarchical ladder of the state. They are authorized, uniformed and armed by the state to fulfill the function of capitalist guard dogs and protectors of a status quo which produces aimlessness if misery, including crime. I think that enough historical evidence has transpired to indicate that the police are not working class, however they may regard themselves. They may be drawn from our ranks, but they most surely are not in our ranks. Police are strike-breakers, scab-herders, and have been a perennial check on working class revolution. In that light, I think it is a mistake to accord cops the designation of working class. As we say out west, "They ride for the brand." Ask yourself exactly what role, and for whom your friends on the force will play if there is a general strike in the U.K. or even a general upheaval. Will they join our side, or will they start hustling our heads? It's been my experience, that a lot of the personal or effective type of relating goes right out the window when central command tells the goons to get in lock-step in the prison system. Then, it's all about formality and bureaucracy.

I doubt it's much different in the British police forces. If I could count the times on my fingers that I've heard these cops parrot the old Huremburg defense of "I'm just following orders" when they're tightening the thumbscrews, I'd have to be an eight armed Hindu deity.

Private securitias, as well as management can come in different modes, some of which exhibit working class solidarity, and some which are clearly not at all solid with the workers, that is, they unequivocally support the boss class against the working class and view that as their function, not to use too sociological a term.

The military is certainly a type of police force which automatically adds a different dimension to it's "wage earning status" or that of it's members. Like other cop forces, they have a different relation to the state than regular wage workers, and can act as the serrations on the knife's edge of class exploitation. However, it should also be pointed out that people join the military for many reasons: education, travel, kinship pressure, and also state coercion as in the case of conscription. It should also be remembered that soldiers who refuse military service, or refuse to fight have to face...cops. The military is somewhat a mixed bag, but has much more potential to mutiny under certain circumstances than do your regular police forces.

As for prison guards, even though I know a few who are pretty nice folks, the plain fact is that they work in concert with other police forces to maintain, by state force, the status quo of exploitation. They also make a living by locking up workers the majority of whom are no threat to society. As such, just like all of the above mentioned cops, they are on the side of the bosses simply by their very official formal military function in the state apparatus. This makes their wage earning status somewhat a moot point with regards to how we classify them. That is our objective view. Subjectively, about 90% of prison guards are sadistic authoritarian assholes who enjoy fucking people over on a daily basis. At least, those are my thoughts on the matter which also have plenty of objective evidence to back them up.

When the military turns it's guns on the bosses, the cops start arresting the real criminals at the top. Instead of the cowardly blind eye they turn to them, and the prison guards start locking up their bosses. Our analysis may change. Until then, they are not in our eyes working class, but the obedient pats of the rich and powerful who have turned their backs on the working class.

In Solidarity
GCR

Dear Comrades

I'm a supporter of John Bisset's irrefutable and totally logical case for the socialist alternative" (CR/ 4), but I also liked Gulf Coast Red's observations on the revolution in Spain at the time of the civil war there. I just wanted to make a couple of comments.

What I think Bisset meant by saying socialism has never been tried is that it can only work on a world scale. Socialism/communism was not only tried by our ancient ancestors—it worked extremely well for millions of years. It was the natural choice of the human species. But it was organized by communities that were mostly isolated from each other. Civilization brought more contacts among communities, but it also brought trade, private property and war—and eventually destroyed its own communist foundations. It's up to us to restore that primitive communism on a sophisticated global scale.

The Spanish experience of the 30s, like the Utopian socialist experiments of the 19th and 20th centuries, was for all its impressiveness still only an island in a sea of capitalism. (OK, a pretty big island) Gulf Coast Red reports that about a third of Spain was organized into collectives. While this gives a somewhat rosy picture, a breakdown of the real numbers is perhaps even more provocative. In the foreword to Gaston Leval's Collectives in the Spanish Revolution (London: Freedom Press, 1975), we read that in Aragon, Levanta and Castile there was a total of 1,600 agricultural collectives. In Catalonia all industry and public services were collectivized. In the Levante 70% of industry and in Castile only a part of industry. In his introduction to the French edition (Leval) suggests that between five and seven million people were either directly or indirectly involved. Frank Mintz estimates the figure of those directly involved in industry at 1.5 million, though he points out that no official statistics are available. For the agricultural collectives the figures he gives for July of 1937 are of a minimum of 800 collectives with a minimum of 400,000 collectivists but notes that by the end of 1938, though the number of collectives had increased to 1,015, the collectivists had dropped to 230,000 (p 14). Just for the record, the total population of Spain in 1936 was 24-25 million (p 58).

In Solidarity

ROEL

Dear Chris Rescison

Hi guys, I'm in the Ga. prison system and I've come in contact with some comrades here that receive your newsletters and I'm very interested in receiving your issues and any other available knowledge you have to share. You guys have a strong outlook on reality and I'm interested in having the knowledge you possess and I wish I could help. Please respond anyway if you're not able to help me out—I've already read up to issue #4. Peace dudes, keep your heads up and continue the hard work.

Respectfully

Michael W. Clark Eff 313150 C.S.P.
P.O. Box 249, Morgans, Ga.
31766-0249

Dear Michael

We got you on the subscription list, and we are overjoyed to hear that you prisoners over in Georgia dig our zine. The best way you could help us and help yourself is to get plugged in and learn about what's going on and how you can get involved to bring about positive change. In addition to CR there are many other groups and publications we have listed in our contacts list which we advocate you write to in order to build contacts of solidarity. These sources of knowledge and solidarity will help you to help us help you build a better planet dude!

Solidarity Brother, GCR

Greetings Comrades

As you may or may not know, October 22 is national day of protest against police brutality. And we here in Houston kicked off a weekend of resistance on Friday Oct. 20th with a rally followed by a march to the cop shop.

The rally started at 4PM at Market Square Park. Over 200 people gathered there as speakers from the MCP, RCP, an EZLN support group, Ray Hill from the Prison Show on Pacifica 90.1 and the friends and families of the people who were murdered by the police spoke about police brutality, the repression and criminalization of a generation. We at the ABC were also on hand with the black flag flying high while we distributed anarchist literature. There was a Stoln Livss Vail there to commemorate all the people murdered by the pigs.

From this rally we marched several blocks to the police station. During the beginning of the march the cops tried to cut the march in half at an intersection, but we were strong in numbers, strong in spirit and refused to stand for that kind of shit. We marched with masked and unmasked faces yelling "No Justice, no Peace. Jail the killer police" (or as the anarchists yelled "Fuck the killer police") and "MPD, MPD, Why do killer cops go free!" There was a host of banners, signs, puppets, drums and even fire breathing on the streets to show our purpose. We got a good response from the people on the street and in passing cars.

Once at the cop shop the speakers continued. Speakers representing AIM, RCP, RCPB, The Nation of Islam, and more family members of those killed spoke once again about issues surrounding police brutality. The mic was also open to anyone else with an opinion. The closing speech was written by an ABC member, and read by an anarchist representing the ABC.

Now with the hour getting on we marched back through downtown to Market Square Park and prepared for the next day of action which was a cultural event which was planned to have bands, poetry, free food courtesy of Food Not Bombs and a graffiti contest.

Things started off slowly when, to our dismay, we learned that none of the bands was going to make it. But some members did eventually show up and they were enough to have a decent little drum circle going. The graffiti contest went well with there being no clear winner, but that mattered little as we used the case of Krylon that was supposed to be the winnings, to have the contest. Over all a good time was had by all and while there were a few problems, most were happy with the way things went.

Sunday, Oct. 22, National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality. A Stoln Livss event was held at the First Unitarian Church to honor the family members of those lost to police violence. Family members gave very heartfelt and moving speeches about their experiences, which could only make those who heard them strengthen their resolve to dismantle this capitalist death machine that is the police force.

All in all it was a strong show to the powers that be that we're tired of taking our nightsticks to the face with a smile, and we're starting to rise up to throw that shaft of terror masquerading as justice right back in their faces. While the numbers of this year were less than those of previous years, what we lacked in numbers we more than made up for in passion, something we at the ABC feel is a direct result of the fact that this was the first year that most of the organizing was left to the youth of M-Town, and also the first year since the first O22 in Houston that anarchists have played a significant role in the event. Our struggle is not ending with this one weekend of resistance. There are already plans in the works to take the strong start of this weekend and continue through the rest of the year, through the next and however many more it takes until the capitalist death machine is dismantled forever.

In Struggle

Houston ABC
1302 Vaughn Dr. #433,
Houston Tx. 77019

From the Trenches cont....

Hello there brother! How are you keeping, and, oh yst. happy new year! I suppose you (we all) have to make the best of our circumstances but that is no reason for inaction. One of the things we in the Anarchist Federation believe in is creating a culture of resistance and I see that the term has been taken up by the U.S. magazine, Barricade. (Have you seen it, by the way?).

We need to build a genuine (non-middle class) revolutionary counter-culture to build confidence and combativity. And you know, that is precisely what Chain Reaction is doing, in the most admirable way. Forward to the 2 million print run! Oh no, hopefully by then prisons will be abolished!

Whilst I don't believe in punishment (two wrongs don't make a right), I do think anarchists are weak on the issue of dealing with anti-social behavior. Obviously, most crime will probably disappear in an anarchist society. But what do we do with the most sadistic murderers - the uncontrollable, multi-murderers? Your views on this would be appreciated, especially as you probably have encountered quite a few of them.

Whilst I remember, please give a plug to ORGANISE! in Chain Reaction. If prisoners write to the mag's address, they can obtain it free of charge. Brother, keep on fighting, there is a new world to win and we need it now.

Solidarity, Colin

ORGANISE! Magazine of the Anarchist Federation
AF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, London
E1 70X, England

Gulf Coast Rd responds

Howdy Comrade! Revolutionary Greetings to you and all the comrades in the Anarchist Federation. We hope that we are holding up our end towards building a real working class culture of resistance as well as the AF is. The compliment is well taken and we figure by the time we hit the 2 million print run, we'll have the revolution accomplished, and Texas prisons will be bulldozed.

Like you, we think that the concept of punishment and its practice are pretty absurd, if not actually barbaric and in need of intense scrutiny. We agree that in an anarchist society, most crime will vanish since the economic deprivation which leads to most of it will be removed. But what about the rest serious social harms like rape, murders of the "sociopathic" type, or child molestations? I propose that there will be less and less of this type of social harms or 'crime' the further we go in an anarchist society. "Time heals all wounds," so to speak. In the beginning there will be more of this due to the residuals or remnants of capitalist influences on people's psyches which caused them to turn out bent or stultified emotionally and psychologically. In an anarchist society, we will not have the alienating conditions and false scarcity of resources that contribute to an un-

wholesome child rearing environment. On the contrary, unlike under capitalism, anarchism will create a healthy social substratum, from which will be raised, healthy well-rounded children, free from the abuse, or neuroses which have obtained under the crass condition of capitalism. We don't know for certain what all causes pathological actions such as rape or serial killings, but it may actually be that there are multiple variables that may cause these phenomena, including genetic disposition. So, let's assume the worst, that in an anarchist society, we will still have a very infinitesimal amount of sociopathic behavior. What to do? It seems to me that the old anarchist idea of ostracism, would be impractical, and somewhat irresponsible to our neighbors, and that in extreme cases where people really pose a threat to the community, the community may find it necessary to keep the social threats at a safe distance. Perhaps communists could be held, to separate predatory elements from the rest of society which had all the amenities of any community, and no type of punishment, but simply kept the social threats at a safe distance. Unfettered from capitalism, social science will be even more likely to help these people over-

come their afflictions, and it may well be that we will not be able to overcome such maladies universally until we bring about an anarchist society. One thing is for certain though brother, and that is that there will be a drastic reduction overall in social harms of all kinds when we bring about anarchism and we will be able to bring to bear many more resources on these social problems, and we will then deal with them in a humanistic and humane way.
for the Social Revolution

CCR

To Chain Reaction

I am writing this from Solitary Confinement within the confines of the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice. I'm doing an 18 yr. sentence for stealing a stinking truck. I've got 8 calendar years flat, in on this sentence, and have been set off by the Parole Board 6 times so far a given the same two reasons of denial each time, of which I cannot change. These being: "Past criminal history" (It was not habitualized or enhanced) and, "Seriousness and nature of Offense." (Which I would think was already taken into consideration during my trial or sentencing) Also, not one of these times that I have been "interviewed for parole" have I sat in front of a parole board, nor even a member of Parole, to present myself as a living human being, and not merely as a number or file.

Well, no matter how crazy things seem to get around here, I was gladly welcomed by an ugly C.O. with a copy of "Chain Reaction" in his hand for me, + I've got to say, it definitely made my day, both because it's good to see a hack doing something worthwhile for a change to earn his daily bread and most of all because we all need to wake up to the truths + realities of what is so strongly and righteously expressed within this newsletter.

Sadly enough, as I was thoroughly enjoying the articles, such as "Patriot Slave," of which I might add were right on the money, I was approached by an inmate SSI who happened by and was curious as to what

I was reading that I found to be so funny, and insanely true. When I showed him my copy of Chain Reaction + attempted to explain what this paper stands for - and before I could finish, the inmate said, "Oh, I see, you're into that comic stuff." Now what could this inmate possibly consider to be "comic stuff" if not right in the midst of where he is standing, because "COMIC STUFF" to me is:

- * That we are being denied parole for no good reason other than it being more profitable for them to keep us here.
 - * We are not given the right or opportunity to go in front of a full parole board to present ourselves as human beings, rather than numbers and unopened files.
 - * We are not given any kind of Good Time credits that actually count for anything.
 - * We are denied our Constitutional rights.
 - * We are being denied the right to vote while incarcerated.
 - * We are being forced to work slave labor, in the fields, and prison industries, and we are not paid any type of wage or benefit.
 - * We are being charged \$3.00 per visit for any and all medical needs and assistance... Which is insane when we are not making a dime's income - yet our families hard earned money, which they struggle to send us when possible, to purchase commissary items, is being taken - stolen from our books in whatever amount they deem to cover medical and dental costs.
 - * We are forced to wear and to exchange CDC's clothing issue, sharing the same box, boxer-shorts pants and shirts which are often not properly washed or rinsed - even though infectious disease runs rampant in CDC.
 - * Not to mention the denial of telephone privileges on a regular basis.
- ... The list goes on longer than the tunnel of doom many of us will face within these walls of injustice, not only in Texas, but throughout the states, and it can't be better said than by those who have expressed these truths through Chain Reaction
- Nothing is going to change for this better for us until we make the change!

by E.X. Boozhie

The most visible member of the System, and the first one you'll come in contact with, is the cop. He isn't always recognizable as such, because it's his state of mind, rather than his clothes, which makes him what he is. His ambition is to control the behavior of other people. He lacks imagination and tends to think in a linear fashion, so he usually relies upon rules to solve everything. In this respect, he has much the same mentality as the religious zealot; indeed, many cops are religious in addition to being legalistic. They believe that the world is in conflict between absolutes of right and wrong, and that rules exist for the purpose of sustaining the triumph of the "right" over the "wrong." Whether these rules are God's or the government's, the cop sees it as his duty to enforce them.

Organized government holds the championship title for rule-making, so it's not surprising that this kind of person would be attracted to it for a livelihood. He's deeply impressed with the government's status as dominant authority in our society, and he is likely to attribute the quality of justice to its rules simply on that basis alone. When asked why he puts his support behind the establishment, he's likely to reply, "because it's the law." What he's actually doing is aligning himself with what he perceives to be the "winning side." He chooses established government to join up with so that he can share in the security that comes from the legitimacy and prevailing balance of power that it holds.

Cops tend to have fragile egos, and it's very important to them that their pride be continually bolstered. Police work meets this need by clothing them with the government's authority. Instantly the cop becomes far more powerful than he could ever hope to be on his own merits. The fact that the authority he wields is actually the government's, and not his own, is unimportant to him; for all outward appearances, he's the boss. Sometimes he can use the government's authority to further his own personal interests, and at other times he must be content to exercise the authority for the sole interests of the government. Either way, however, he derives satisfaction from being "The Man" and reaffirming his pretigious self image....

In the case of the keepers, their fondness for government work is even more likely to be the result of laziness than with street cops. Prison jobs are much easier to get than police commissions, and as often as not, the prospective prison guard is simply looking for steady work that's close to home. Prison work is easy job security that requires no real skills. People who become prison guards are generally a calibre of individual that would have washed out of a real police academy. Most of them are fat, misshapen, or impaired by various other physical handicaps, and invariably lack the capacity for original thought.

The keepers see themselves as members of a team fighting the battle against evil. Their job is to isolate, punish, and rehabilitate the bad guys, while simultaneously satisfying society's thirst for retribution and deterring similar conduct in the future. In a word, they think they are correcting society's problems, so they prefer to call themselves "correctional officers."

Their ego problems are as bad as those of the police, but they're a much more cowardly breed of cop; they know their captives have been stripped of all weapons and are incapable of effective resistance, and those are the kind of odds that appeal to them.

The upper-echelon keepers who run the prison system have attempted to legitimize what they're doing by rhetorically elevating it to the status of a science, which they call "corrections." Some of them have even acquired the title of Ph.D. in the endeavor to pass themselves off to the public as professionals; presumably they have to justify their exorbitant salaries somehow. Once you've cleared away the blarney, however, the plain fact is that a slaver by any other name is still nothing but a slaver. These guys are not practicing science any more than Adolph Elchman or Klaus Barbie were. •

by

GULF COAST RED

The history of racial animosity in the U.S. goes far back in our history, rooted in slavery, the blood drenched genocidal expansionism of a government which has systematically exploited, uprooted and marginalized different racial and ethnic groups; the legitimization of all this with religious doctrine. Racial tension between poor whites and black slaves did not always exist however. In the early colonial days, white indentured servants and black slaves often lived in communities together and at times revolted and took up arms against their masters together.

Little by little though, just as house slaves later gained some privilege over their brothers and sisters in the fields, poor whites were given privileges and conferred with the mythological status of whiteness in recompense for selling out and becoming overseers of black slaves.

Those in power always use this sort of tactic in order to break the bonds of solidarity of those they wish to control. Those at the top use their entitlements, but it also takes acquiescence from the bottom, and therein lies the problem. A good analogy and relevant example of this could be comparatively drawn with how labor leaders have often historically jumped in bed with the bosses totally subverting their fellow worker's interests. Another could be shown by the way middle class elements act as overseers of workers, policing and keeping them in line, enticed with money benefits, status and prestige—even though they have to sell their labor to the boss in order to survive. The values of individual upward mobility are taught to us in schools which is nothing but the institutionalized indoctrination of self-love philosophy, and we all know how powerful philosophy is.

The sell-opts go way back in history. They've been selling us down the river for a long time. It's time prisoners and members of the working class quit selling out to Massa and realize our common humanity. It's also time that we organize as a class against the parasites who have, and still do turn us against one another.

The pain of racism and the animosity it engenders has become embedded in our culture and prisoners bring this baggage with them to these state created hell holes. The amount of senseless violence and death this has resulted in is legion. Yet this type of violence is nothing but an endless reciprocal arching among people who should be on the same side and it accomplishes nothing positive. One rotten anti-working class deed begets another, ad infinitum. Members of all racial groups are responsible for committing these, often predatory deeds, and it's time prisoners stepped off this stupid continuum and quit fucking each other around!

Prisoners killing one another because of skin color, point of geographical origin (whatever fucked up town we happen to come from), or clique affiliation is nothing but idiotic and it is absolutely no threat to the established order whatsoever. The cops thrive on this sort of shit and are only too happy to cart one more of us out to the state home yard to rest for eternity. It's an old saying that "when the master cracks his whip, the slave lashes out at the slave he's nearest." With some of the lashing out that goes on in Tx. prisons, though, some of the slaves may as well apply for jobs as executioners down at the Huntsville Walls Unit because that's the same side they're working for anyway.

Every fucked up deed we do to one another only aids the cops in making our lives more miserable, and in aiding the cops we also aid the capitalist bosses. It's a form of sellin' out and klassin' ess to those in power, fact, looked at a little more closely, it really amounts to bein' a type of cop!

It's good for people to be proud of their culture and heritage. That sort of diversity is what makes life worth living. But to be exclusive, or divisive over race is utter bullshit! CR says, "to hell with that kind of race pride!" The only war we advocate is class war—the war between the boss class and the class of wage slaves. We advocate, **CLASS PRIDE, CLASS UNITY!**

Members of the working class within and without prison walls need to quit selling one another down the river and start backin' each other up! Massa ain't gonna do it for us and it's the only hope we have of bringin' about a world where there ain't no Masses and there ain't no slaves. CR



WHY NOT ANARCHIST COMMUNISM?

Why do you suppose that capitalists are so afraid of communism? Will anarchist communism improve or degrade the quality of life for most people? Let's look at these questions and see what answers we find.

One reason capitalists are afraid of anarchist communism is because a society based on such a system will make these moneychangers' jobs obsolete. When the workers themselves possess the means of production and the people collectively own all the natural resources, there is no need for managers, presidents and CEOs of corporations. There will be no more stockbrokers and bankers to skim the cream off the top.

Workers and communities together will decide what products will be manufactured and the types of services provided. This doesn't, however, mean that there will be a lack of variety in products and services. The people, organized in various ways by industry, community or region, will be responsible for deciding what they want or don't want to produce.

There will no longer be a need for money. With the people in control of all production, resources, and services, there will no longer be a profit-driven market economy. Free access, by all the people, to all the goods and services produced makes an exchange medium, such as money, obsolete since there is no longer an exchange of commodities from seller to buyer. This seems very strange, and even unnatural, to people who have spent their entire lives as consumers in a capitalist society. But this is the marvelous thing about an anarchist-communist society—everybody has free access to everything.

To get a grasp of this let's look at a simple example—the family garden. When you grow your own food for your family you don't have the individual members of the family pay for the food. All the members share collectively in producing it, so naturally they also share collectively in consuming it. Each individual family member contributes according to his or her abilities and receives according to his or her needs.

Free access doesn't mean take all you can hoard or walk off with. It simply means that all members of society will have equal access to the wealth created. Food, clothing, housing, education, healthcare, and even entertainment and recreation will be accessible to all.

The use of highly developed technology and full employment will result in a very short work day of 2-4 hours only 3-4 days per week, if that. This will reduce the drudgery of work to an absolute minimum and will, for the first time in modern history, provide real freedom for individuals to develop their aesthetic and personal interests as they like. Anarchist-communist society will provide people with the ability to unleash their creativity as never before.

Capitalism is based upon worker exploitation and it keeps workers in bondage through fear and coercion. By pitting one group of workers against the other through the fear of unemployment, capitalism ensures itself a steady supply of cheap labor. When workers seek higher wages, the capitalist threatens to move his business somewhere else or bring in "foreign" workers. This is a major cause of friction between different races and ethnic groups. While the elimination of capitalism alone will not bring an end to all forms of racism, the creation of an egalitarian society based on anarchist-communist principles will go a long way in alleviating much of it and eventually causing a change in the hierarchical ways we think which foster the supremacist attitudes responsible for racism.

The same holds true in regards to women, gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, and transgendered. The end of competition in the workplace and the end of the market system of distribution will eventually bring an end to the negative ways we view others different from us. No longer will patriarchal, sexist, or homophobic attitudes gain widespread support and will disappear. This will not happen overnight but over the course of succeeding generations from the moment anarchist communism becomes a reality.

The capitalist peddlers would have you believe that only the exploitative system of wage slavery can provide the incentive for workers to do their jobs well or at all. This is complete nonsense. Look today at all the people who freely volunteer for various projects helping their communities. Many small communities rely wholly upon volunteers for everything from fire departments to city services and senior centers. In 1999, over 109 million Americans volunteered their time and resources to help improve the quality of life on a local, national, and international scale. According to a 1999 study, "Giving and Volunteering in the United States," the volunteer workforce represented the equivalent of more than 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$225 billion. Furthermore, when asked to volunteer, 90 percent of survey respondents did volunteer. This fully repudiates the capitalist propaganda which says that people will only perform their best with a carrot-and-stick approach. In other words, they claim that unless you are provided with an incentive to work (e.g., the threat of going hungry, naked or homeless), you will not perform up to your best. Anarchist communists know that that is complete hogwash.

Anarchist communism doesn't mean that everybody will be living in the same kind of house, driving the same kind of vehicle, or wearing all the same kind of clothes. For one thing, anarchist communists believe that society must re-examine the idea of consumerism that enslaves us with the never-ending command to buy.

There are many so-called "modern conveniences" that don't necessarily lend themselves to making life "better" or even more enjoyable. In more than a few instances, our techno-society has created a more stressful living environment that has added as many new problems to life as curing old ones. Our senses have been bombarded by the consumer society spectacle to the point where we are always seeking more intense and stimulating experiences—just as a junkie requires an ever-greater dose to get the same high. Anarchist communism means that communities will be free to develop goods and services geared toward creating prosperity and well-being for all members of society based on what the people decide they want, not what some commercial says they want. This has the potential to unleash creativity and innovation as never before realized under capitalism.

Anarchist communists don't advocate "trashing" all technology. We believe that some technology is beneficial to sustaining prosperity for all the planet's inhabitants while some is clearly detrimental to that purpose. You don't often hear the word prosperity used in conjunction with communism. But the people in an anarchist-communist society will indeed prosper. The whole purpose of anarchist communism is to raise people's living standards up. This will also, no doubt, entail lowering a few rich elitists' lifestyles. There is absolutely no legitimate reason for any single person to amass more wealth than he or she can spend in several lifetimes. And in an anarchist communist society there will be no need to hoard wealth to pass on to your heirs. For a single person or family to amass millions, even billions, of dollars in wealth is pure greed.

The vast majority of people want a comfortable life for themselves and their children and, indeed, everyone—a sense of serenity for the future. But this is not possible as long as a few rich elitists hoard the world's resources while the many common people have to scratch out a meager existence and even face starvation. We can all live comfortable, happy lives when the running of society is put completely in the hands of the people. As stated above, this will require some of the rich parasite class to move down the ladder, but the majority of people will be moving up or simply living at their present level. It is possible for all the world to live prosperously and happy when we eliminate capitalist greed. The only shortages of life's necessities, and most of its so-called luxuries, are those created by profit-driven capitalism.

Production of goods and services will be achieved using methods that have the least negative impact on our environment. Under capitalism, companies balk at the idea of pollution controls because they are more concerned with increasing their profits than they are about clean air or water. With anarchist communism's elimination of the profit motive and an exchange economy, there will be no reason not to install the best pollution

pollution control devices available. Reliance on fertilizers, chemicals, and fossil fuels will be eliminated where their use is dictated solely by profit. Renewable resources will be developed to their fullest potential.

If capitalism could make everybody rich, we would all be living in mansions. But the truth is that in order for someone to be able to accumulate billions of dollars in wealth, thousands of others must live in poverty. There is nothing right or fair about one person living like a king while thousands of others are starving. The world has a finite amount of resources and all of earth's inhabitants are entitled to live a life of dignity free of starvation and homelessness. But that is not possible when only a few thousand rich elitists hoard the majority of the wealth. Just because a person has not been endowed with as great of talents or intelligence as someone else is no reason why that person should be relegated to a life of misery while another lives the life of opulence.

The elitists who sell the phoney line of "rugged individualism" blame laziness for people's failure to acquire great riches under capitalism. It is, however, a fallacy that the majority of poor people are lazy. Most people who exist in poverty conditions live a hard scramble life just to survive. Appalachian coal miners, for example, have worked what is likely the hardest, dirtiest, most dangerous job on the planet—coal mining. These workers and their families have suffered much at the hands of exploitative mine owners. Over the years, many of these brave workers have been laid off from their jobs. Many more suffer from the debilitating effects of black lung disease caused by years of breathing coal dust because mine owners didn't feel the lives of their workers merited adequate safety equipment and procedures. But these workers have few prospects for work elsewhere. They are poor because capitalist society has tossed them aside like so much trash, but they are by no means lazy.

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That the poor are lazy is just one more of the many lies created by the capitalist spin doctors to hide the true nature of capitalism. Even for those who embark on their own small business venture, the results are more often than not a dismal failure. The overall small business survival rate after 4-6 years is only 38 percent. That means that under the so-called free market system you have almost a 2-in-3 chance of failure. Not very good odds at all. This is additional proof that under capitalism, regardless of your work ethic, hard work alone is no guarantee that a person

will rise out of poverty. The capitalist rainbow of prosperity and wealth is just an illusion to hundreds of millions of hardworking men and women.

If there's so much wealth available, why are the ruling class greed-heads so worried about spreading it around to everybody in an anarchist-communist society? The answer, as explained above, is a simple one. The capitalists know that the creation of an egalitarian society will mean an end to their great fortunes since it is only through the denial of wealth to the majority of earth's inhabitants that sustains dynastys such as theirs.

On the day when the new egalitarian society arrives, the rich will lose their positions as rulers over the working class. They will no longer have domination over others or the ability to amass obscene sums of wealth from the blood, sweat and tears of workers. The parasite class knows who are the real creators of wealth—workers!

An anarchist-communist society, egalitarian in nature, free of the coercive apparatus of the State and repudiating all forms of classism, racism, sexism and homophobia, is easily within our reach. All we have to do to achieve it is for the working class to want it. As members of the working class gain revolutionary consciousness, the need for revolutionary social change will become apparent to those people who are now somewhat reluctant to embrace it. As the relevance of anarchist-communism becomes recognized, the working class will become eager participants in forging the new democratic society—an anarchist-communist society.

Millions of people in America, and billions in the rest of the world, suffer in quiet desperation under the heavy burden imposed on them by capitalism. They know that a change must come if families and social relationships are to be saved from the grinding boot of capitalist oppression. And the problem isn't just global capitalism and large corporations, it's the entire capitalist system from the smallest entrepreneur to the largest multi-national corporation that is the problem. The entire system of value and exchange must be smashed.

But the same people who are exploited by capitalism are also the same people who are afraid of revolutionary social change. They are fearful that it will cause instability in their lives, even though their current situation under capitalism is anything but stable. The people know in their hearts that there must be a revolution if they ever hope to rise above the miserable conditions they now find themselves in. But the uncertainty they feel of blazing a new path that has never been explored fully in modern history keeps them in their continued state of bondage.

But the truth is, there is no certainty in the rollercoaster system of capitalist exploitation we now live under. Nobody knows when the next recession or depression will hit. Most workers today aren't even

assured of having a job tomorrow. Families today live hand-to-mouth, one paycheck away from financial ruin. There is no certainty in constantly having to worry if you'll have a roof over your head or food to fill the bellies of your children—no sense of serenity for the future.

Today anarchist communists have a good idea of how to achieve a social revolution that will bring prosperity and well-being to all members of our global society. It will be an all-inclusive society of all the people making decisions about what they want from life, not just a handful of elitist lawmakers. Let us come together and join in bringing forth the social revolution. CR

PRISONERS FILE SUIT AGAINST POST PRISON

Sixteen federal prisoners confined to the Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility in Post, Texas (see page 20 article "Concentration Camp Economics" for more on the Post prison) filed a class-action lawsuit on January 16, 2001, alleging violation of due process and their civil rights.

The prisoners, all immigrant aliens in the U.S., filed suit in U.S. District Court in Lubbock. The defendants are the U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, federal Bureau of Prisons Director Kathleen Hawk, two regional federal prison officials, Dalby Warden Joe Rasebeary and the president of Management Training Corporation.

Management Training Corporation (MTS) runs the private prison, which contracts with the federal government to house prisoners. Only so-called alien prisoners are confined at the prison, according to the lawsuit.

The prisoners allege that they are subjected to harsher conditions because of their segregation from the general prison population at the Dalby prison. The lawsuit claims further that a mostly white security staff discriminates against the prisoner population, a majority of which is Hispanic.

The plaintiffs seek that the Dalby prison be closed and permanently barred from operating as a federal prison. They also want the court to prohibit federal officials from segregating alien prisoners.

Each prisoner who is a party to the suit is asking for \$60,000 in damages and three days credit toward their sentences for each day they were confined.

[Source: Lubbock Avalanche-Journal]

HAS FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE OF 'LEGAL 'SLAVERY'

Thank you for your paper. I like what you said about legal slavery in Texas ["Legal Slavery," CHAIN REACTION, Vol.1, No. 2]. I know, I'm here. I wish there was some way to beat them at their own game.

—R.T., Ellis Unit

[Ed. Note: There is a way to beat them at their own game. Become educated in class struggle revolutionary anarchism and build prisoner working-class consciousness and solidarity.]

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have a "multiplier effect" on the economy.

Though corporate privatization is making huge inroads into the prison business, the majority of prison construction and operation still remains in the public sector. A good example of how the prisoner as commodity fuels economic development of small communities can be found in the rural West Texas town of Post. The cereal magnate C.W. Post began building the town in 1907 in the middle of the semi-arid badlands of Garza County. It never developed much beyond its current population of approximately 4,000. Postex Cotton Mills began operation there in 1913 with 250 employees and became the town's largest employer. Dreams of Post hitting the big-time were dashed when it lost out on a bid in 1916 to become the site for Texas Tech University (known as Texas Technological College at the time). That honor went to the then-small town of Lubbock (today population 200,000) 50 miles to the northwest.

In 1955, Burlington Industries bought the town's Postex Cotton Mills which eventually expanded to employ 450 workers at its height of operation in 1973. But in the early 1980s Burlington followed other corporations who were moving their operations overseas in pursuit of cheaper labor and closed down the mills. The closing of the mills was a devastating economic blow to the Post community. Postex had represented stable employment in a rural area otherwise dominated by the cyclical businesses of oil, ranching, and farming. Post wasn't very successful in recruiting a replacement industry for the Postex Cotton Mills until 1998 when Garza County, of which Post is the county seat, decided to enter the lucrative business of warehousing humans.

The 1,094-bed Giles W. Dalby Correctional Facility opened its cages for business in October 1999. Most of the bodies are those of federal prisoners. As you might expect, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal newspaper was all aglow with the wonderful economic news for the region that "250 full-time jobs were projected to be created at the facility." The new warden, Terry Bartlett, delivered good news to the town, saying, "We've been able to hire a good number of local folks, many of whom were looking for solid employment in Post so they could stay around home. We're real excited about bringing those job opportunities to the local community."

Post is just one example of a scenario that has become all too commonplace in hundreds of communities across America. In practically every case, little or nothing is mentioned by the local media about the human dimension of the cage occupants. And whenever they do manage to garner acknowledgement it's usually in animalistic terms. No matter the location—north, south, east or west—the new community prison is described in the same nonchalant manner as would be used to announce the grand opening of a new Wal-Mart

[In announcing the grand opening of a new prison], little or nothing is mentioned by the local media about the human dimension of the cage occupants. And whenever they do garner acknowledgement it's usually in animalistic terms.

Superstore. The only difference being that whereas the local merchants often view Wal-Mart as an adversary, they glory over the prospect of increased business that will be generated by the infusion of money from the new prison.

The argument is often posited by prison opponents, and rightly so, that the huge expenditure of revenues on prisons takes money away from educational and social programs. The reasoning goes that taxpayers should be outraged over the sacrifice of their children's education at the altar of criminal justice. What seems to be overlooked in this argument, however, is the fact that it's these same taxpayers who are clamoring for prisons to be built in their communities in order to "stabilize" the local economy. Many public school systems obtain much of their funding from local taxes, and human services are increasingly becoming the responsibility of local communities as the welfare state is dismantled. That's why what often is the case today is that prisons are seen by locals as a positive way to generate economic growth and sustain revenues for their schools and community services. Never mind that it's mostly smoke and mirrors and some taxpayers somewhere else are getting the short end of the deal. To the townspeople where the prison is located it all looks so good on paper as being the economic savior they've been praying for. Who can blame them for their blind ignorance? After all, while the prison itself may not directly contribute to increasing the local tax base, the additional payroll does provide area citizens with the means to buy new homes and all sorts of durable goods (i.e., automobiles, major appliances), along with overall increased local consumer spending. As someone once said, ignorance is bliss.

So who is ultimately responsible for the current incarceration binge? The answer is simple, we are all to blame. This sad state of affairs hasn't come about through the acts of some dark, sinister figures lurking in the shadows. The people responsible are community leaders, local businesspeople, working class taxpayers, friends, neighbors and relatives. As the saying goes, "We have seen the enemy and it is us."

Even someone as diabolical as Adolph Hitler could not implement the socioeconomic course pursued by the Nazis without first gaining the cooperation of the citizenry. As Hillary Clinton says, "It takes a village." German concentration camps became an accepted part of

the local economic landscape. American communities coast-to-coast are today also becoming addicted to concentration camp economics. Prisons have become part of the grand illusion to cover-up the crisis that consumerist capitalism now finds itself. With all the laudatory reports of a booming economy it comes as a shock to most people that a crisis even exists. But if all is so well in the land of the gold card, why are so many communities on the verge of collapse, grasping for whatever jobs they can manage to scavenge up, even the caging of humans?

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The rock-solid stability of the prison industry is being increasingly eyed as the savior of destitute communities, both large and small. Prisons have become the economic reassurance to a society buffeted by the turbulence of global capitalism. What may surprise most people is that the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), the measure of all goods and services produced in this country, also includes money spent on building and operating the nation's prisons, as well as all the collateral goods and services derived from prison-related economic activity. Sending people to prison thus results in the GDP going up.

A report on crime and poverty in America, issued in December 1999 by the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation said, "Prisons have become our nation's substitute for effective policies on crime, drugs, mental illness, housing, poverty and unemployment of the hardest to employ." Prisoners as commodities are also used in dealing with chronic unemployment. We've already seen how prisons provide jobs to members of the community. The flip side of that equation is to cage the most resistant among the unemployed. The standard wisdom appears to be that incarcerating the unemployed is a very efficient, if not very humanitarian, way to deal with all the problems associated with their joblessness. Prisons remove the homeless and mentally ill from the streets, provides them with shelter, and offers them the opportunity as slaves to develop a work ethic.

The chronically unemployed are also seen as contributing more as prisoners toward economic growth than they otherwise would be in the free world. In the free world a thousand unemployed workers have the effect of creating a handful of employment office and human services staff positions. However, a 1000-bed prison creates several hundred jobs both at the prison and in the local community. And prison

jobs, if things continue on their present course, will last into perpetuity. It's really a devilishly clever way to deal with "surplus" workers that the capitalist system has no current need of or desire to retrain. As prisoners they aren't counted in the unemployment statistics, have their activities restricted so as not to be a "problem" for authorities, provide employment for hundreds of other people, and also show up as a positive contribution to the GDP. From a capitalistic socioeconomic perspective, what's not to like about it?

Most American communities seem to be tuned-out from the oppressive conditions in which prisoners exist behind the walls of these economic wonders. Local citizens either don't care, don't know, or don't care to know about the despairing state of the occupants caged in these human zoos. The prevailing mood is that they get what they deserve no matter how horrible the conditions are inside the concrete and steel tombs. When the German concentration camps were liberated toward the end of World War 2, the local residents were brought to the camps to view the atrocities that had taken place. They were either emotionally overwhelmed by the horrors they witnessed, or stood in silent indifference to the fate of the poor souls forced to languish in hell on earth.

Public access to American prisons isn't much different than it was in Nazi Germany. Most of what goes on inside U.S. prisons is hidden from the prying eyes of the public. Only a select few individuals or groups are provided access to prisons, and most of the time they are restricted to seeing only what prisonrats want them to see. Institutions are supposed to be transparent in a democratic society. Prisons, however, have been effectively closed to public scrutiny and only recently has this policy been seriously challenged.

It's time to liberate our society from concentration camp economics. To do this we must change the attitudes of a large segment of the population. The cavalier attitude with which most Americans today view prisoners is not fundamentally different from the way most Germans came to see Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and other considered "low lifes" under Nazism. Regardless of the rationale used to subject fellow human beings to such horrors, once a society has made the determination that certain people "deserve" to be enslaved, brutalized and exterminated, it soon loses all inhibitions concerning their economic exploitation and unleashes a demonic genie that is not so easily put back in its bottle. It is this against which we as prison abolitionists must do battle if we expect to be successful in reversing the current American love affair with concentration camp economics.

Of course, prison abolition cannot occur in a vacuum. It must be accompanied with a fundamental social transformation—preferably anarchist communism.
CR

AMERICA GETS 'BUSHWHACKED'

By West Texas Slim

For those of you who, in the aftermath of election debacle 2000, still believe that America is a democracy, I have a bridge named Brooklyn that I'd like to sell you. When the loser of the popular vote is the one elected to the most powerful political position in the world—president of the United States—something is terribly wrong in the "land of the free." And once again, we have that hallowed of all documents—the United States Constitution—to thank for the will of the people once again being denied.

Most people in the U.S. have probably heard of the electoral college at some point in their lives but never gave it much thought until now. Suddenly all the good folks of the U.S. are running around shocked that such a system exists which can award the presidency to the loser of the popular vote. However, Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the U.S. Constitution states in pertinent part:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress....

The Twelfth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution added a few tweaks to the electoral college process but nevertheless left it intact. What's most interesting to note is that neither Article II or the Twelfth Amendment require a popular vote to elect the president. It doesn't even require a popular election for choosing which candidate the electors will vote for in the electoral college.

You may recall that at one point during the judicial tug-of-war over the Florida votes, the legislature of that state was considering passing its own resolution awarding Florida's electoral votes to George W. Bush. Many people thought this was an affront to the democratic principles which they believed operated this country (how gullible the masses can be), but such an end run by the legislature would have been perfectly legal since the U.S. Constitution permits the state legislatures to appoint the electors "in such a Manner as [they] may direct."

Why would the framers of the U.S. Constitution, who were allegedly concerned about the rights of "We the People," concoct such an undemocratic process? Because, as we have previously stated in the pages of **CHAIN REACTION**, the U.S. Constitution was written by the ruling, propertied elitists of the country to protect their narrow interests. They were (and still are) absolutely terrified of "We the People" and the power we would wield against the ruling minority under a system of true democracy.

The electoral college was chosen by the framers as the method of electing the president because it

provides for a last line of defense against the democratic majority. Under the U.S. Constitution the chosen electors are free to change their votes and are not required to uphold the popular vote, though historically the popular vote has generally been followed. But the only reason the popular vote was chosen as the method of "appointing" electors is that it gives the illusion of democracy. Most of the time the electoral vote coincides with the popular vote and so it's assumed by the people that they actually elected the president. It's only on the rare occasion, such as the quagmire of election 2000, when the system exposes its dark undemocratic underbelly.

As the executive branch of government, the President of the United States holds all the police and military powers. The president also has the power to veto any legislation, to institute "executive orders" which amount to one-man legislation (in other words, the powers of dictator). All the federal judgeships are appointed by the president. This includes the all-powerful justices to the U.S. Supreme Court, which comprise a nine-member ruling junta capable of striking down any legislation deemed inappropriate by the ruling class.

In the case of George W. Bush, he has stacked his cabinet with a cadre of right-wing extremists that even Adolph Hitler would be proud of, including a number of extreme militarists. You have former Chief of Staff and Gulf War promulgator Colin Powell as Secretary of State; Donald Rumsfeld, a life-long member of the good ol' boy defense contractors establishment, is taking the reins as Secretary of Defense; and let's not forget vice president Dick Cheney who used to be Secretary of Defense during Papa Bush's presidency. Add to this motley crew Bush's new national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and you have all the makings for a renewed American assault against the rest of the globe and very possibly World War III. Rice has made statements to the effect that American security interests always trump human rights.

As for that nine-member ruling junta, we all know how its reactionary right wing decided in a 5-4 decision to end the Florida ballot recount and "select" George W. Bush as the winner. Yes, America has been "bushwhacked" by its own constitution and now faces four years of potentially unmitigated reactionary politics. Not that Gore would have been much better. He espoused virtually the same militarism and authoritarianism as his opponent. With the exception of Gore's stance on abortion, I couldn't tell any difference between the two reactionaries.

The only way the American people and the people of the world are ever going to achieve true freedom and democracy is to overthrow this rotten system we now have in favor of anarchist communism. CR

WHO ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS?

On October 12, 2000, a small vessel, apparently packed with explosives, pulled alongside the U.S.S. Cole, a Navy guided-missile destroyer in the process of docking in Yemen to refuel. According to eyewitnesses, there were two occupants in the small craft when the explosive force of its cargo ripped a gaping hole in the port side of the Cole. Seventeen U.S. sailors and the two suicide bombers were presumably killed in the blast.

American news reports called the incident a "terrorist attack." President Clinton renounced the attack as such, and he along with Defense Secretary William Cohen called the alleged suicide bombers "cowards" for committing this so-called act of terrorism against American naval forces.

But wait a minute. This wasn't a group of college students on a field trip around the world, but a U.S. Navy warship on military maneuvers in foreign waters. When you cruise around the world in a vessel decked out in heavy military armaments of war, shouldn't you expect that sooner or later somebody is going to view this as a provocation? The truth is that the only "victims" of this attack were military personnel trained to carry out acts of aggression against others. How then, can this be called an act of terrorism?

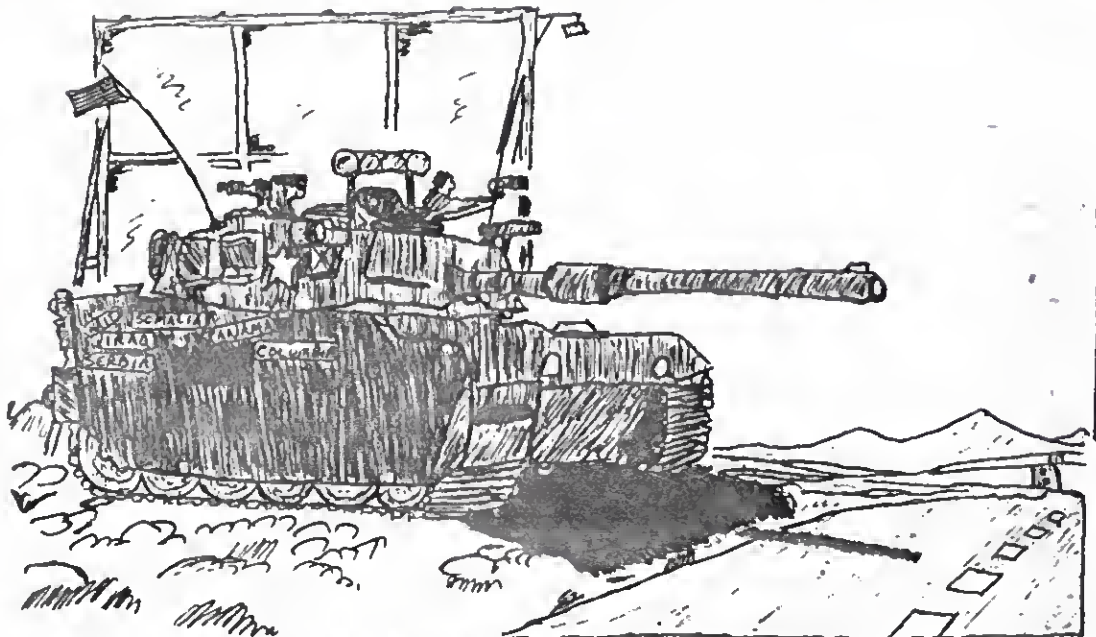
When a group or organization launches cruise missiles from afar (such as those carried by the Cole) against cities populated with civilians and drops cluster bombs from 40,000 feet on those same people, is that not a terrorist attack? Yet, since this terrorizing was done by an American and European terrorist organization called NATO, it is labeled by the Western media

as a "humanitarian act."

What is more cowardly, the act of blowing up military personnel at point blank range, killing yourself in the process; or launching cruise missiles from many miles away (as the crew of the Cole is trained to do) killing thousands of civilians while you later sup at the dining table at the end of just another "business day"? And what can more closely be considered a terrorist act, the destruction of a provocative warship and its warrior occupants, or the remote-controlled destruction of a city and its civilian occupants? Why is the true terrorist attack—NATO's bombing of civilians—considered "humanitarianism" while the bombing of a warship is considered terrorism?

The answer to these questions can be found in most American's perception that all U.S. acts of aggression are noble and good while aggressive acts against the U.S. are terrorist attacks against a peaceable people. But the truth is that the United States is anything but a peaceable people. America has been engaged in wars and warlike activity for most of its history. U.S. military adventurism has been shown to have the primary purpose of advancing American imperialism and world domination; an advance guard that works to sweep the earth of all resistance against encroaching American capitalists who soon swarm in to destroy cultures and reap obscene profits.

It's not Middle East terrorists who roam the earth in military ships and aircraft lobbing cruise missiles and dropping laser-guided smart bombs. It is the United States—which calls itself the world's only superpower, a term (Continued on page 26)



TERRORIST FORCE HIDING BEHIND A FACADE OF DEMOCRACY

NATIONALISM:

No Way To Start A Revolution

By Ronald A. Young

Having been raised in a world full of nation-states, it's understandable that the majority of people have a difficult time viewing conflict resolution and autonomous self-determination in terms other than nationalism and nationalistic contests.

We have for the most part been indoctrinated into the belief that in every nationalistic war or conflict we must choose up sides—good guy versus bad guy. It is this myopic view of the world which hinders the development of an international revolutionary social movement. As revolutionary anarchists we must be willing to step back and view the world through "new eyes". It's time for us to put our complete efforts into developing an international revolutionary anarchist movement and pull ourselves away from continually falling into the trap of nationalist geopolitics.

Autonomous self-determination of the people is a major tenet of anarchism. However, such autonomy must be attained through the auspices of internationalism, not by supporting authoritarian conflicts which pit one group of workers against another. Our work must be to organize the working class of the world to stand against all capitalist, imperialist and authoritarian forces regardless of what mask they may wear.

When anarchists continue to embrace the same old world order (which we do every time we support authoritarian nationalist movements) while at the same time advocating for international worker solidarity, we, in essence, are trying to build a spaceship by using the blueprints to a horse carriage. Such acquiescence to the "old ways" is nothing more than reformist posturing through militaristic means.

Authoritarian, capitalistic governmental control over the people's lives, whether coming from the right or the left, is not what any serious revolutionary anarchist could consider as being a liberation movement of the people. Our failure as social revolutionaries to put the people's struggle for autonomy and self-determination in terms other than the nation-state leaves us forever confined inside a box of our own making. This continuing lack of vision in seeing what needs to be done prevents the revolutionary process from going forward and actually causes it to fall back to the old ways—to become reactionary. At every critical juncture in the past 150 years, the dominant anarchist and socialist movements have frittered away many golden opportunities to bring the social revolution to fruition.

Many who claim to be revolutionary anarchists nonetheless find various ways to rationalize their taking sides in the nationalist bloodfests. The main rationale for continuing to cling to the old ways appears to be the belief that such movements may evolve into social revolutionary movements, just as many hold to the false notion that we can achieve the social revolution through involving ourselves in liberal social struggles (and that's a whole other article in itself). Still others believe that if there's no viable revolutionary movement involved in these "liberation" movements then we must support the lesser of evils, hoping that it will evolve into a libertarian movement.

Revolutionary anarchists have never believed in such evolutionary schemes, and history has bared out the fact that a revolution which fails to immediately smash the State will utterly fail to emancipate and liberate the people. Still, those who embrace this Marxist-Leninist ideology trudge on, trying to sell their discredited form of revolution blind to history and ignorant of reality, more intent on thumbing their

noses at revolutionary anarchism than to relinquish their wrongheaded ways. They claim to be anarchists in name but fail to prove themselves such through their actions.

This doesn't mean that revolutionary anarchists

must put all in a box and should automatically dismiss the revolutionary potential of all movements that appear as national self-determination movements. Each situation must be analyzed individually. We should not wholly discount the possibility that a nationalist movement, as such, could manifest itself in such a way as to exhibit the principles of egalitarianism and internationalism as well as the "liberation" factor. Once these movements take up arms it's usually possible at the onset to determine whether these social revolutionary elements exist, even minimally, within any particular nationalist movement. If, on the other hand, the self-determination movement is centered predominantly in religious, racial or ethnic separatism that continues to advance divisions between workers and the imposition of artificial borders, then we as revolutionary anarchists would do well to avoid it like the plague it is.

Internationalism eschews artificial frontiers. Autonomy and self-determination must not result in hindering the free movement of people from one region to another. The concept of nationalism, on the other hand, involves the creation of artificial borders and controlled movement of people.

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"Our work must be to organize the working class of the world to stand against all capitalist, imperialist and authoritarian forces regardless of what mask they may wear."  
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REMOVE THE BLINDERS FROM YOUR EYES

[The following article is excerpted from the book, "Toward An American Revolution—Exposing the Constitution and other Illusions," by Jerry Fresia, © 1988 South End Press, Boston, MA. Used by permission.]

We have unreflectively accepted the idea that freedom means the right of a few individuals to control the lives of millions of people by virtue of their private ownership of community, national, and international resources. We have unreflectively accepted the idea that democracy refers to a political system in which the marginal participation of common people is designed to protect the political and economic power of the propertied class. The key political values that emerge from the Constitution are frozen in the ice of eighteenth-century elitism.

We allow the privileged to rest comfortably in a set of social relationships that call exploitation freedom and the empowerment of the rich democracy. Given these conceptual blinders, the oppression of others becomes harder to see and the corruption of our own humanity, particularly if we are among the privileged, becomes invisible. Lies about who we are and what we do become more palatable than the truth, denial more palatable than confrontation.

Signs that something is terribly wrong are everywhere, but the struggle to see ourselves as a free people and as superior people forces us to look away, to deny our experience and to repress what our experience means. The struggle to see ourselves as free and innocent is one that is self-defeating. For to deny and repress what we see and hear and know is to live in a purely invented world, a world, where reason must die and where stupidity must reign.

I can think of no greater tasks today than for activists to study the reasons why so many common people, surely a majority, objected to the ratification of the Constitution. We must understand the design and structure of our national institutions before we can begin to understand what our government is up to at home and around the world.

The Constitution was designed to ensure that the majority of citizens (without property) would not have a real voice in political affairs and it is no coincidence that that is the case today. And the Constitution was designed to ensure that real political power in this country would always be held by the handful of very large property owners and shatter the logic of the majority in Nicaragua, South Africa, Guatemala, Chile, Newark, Detroit, most of the South, most of California where soon the majority will be of Third World origins, and so many other places.

The merchants, bankers, and plantation slaveowners of 1787 have become a global corporate clan of [2000]. And I am asking you how many more plucked eyes and wrenched throats must we pay for in the villages of the poor before we figure out that Congress does the dirty work of corporations and that respectfully peti-

tioning those men and women can only be the work of imperial citizens who are slowly dying.

The interpretation presented on these pages, for many, will be one that is hard to accept. Criticism of the ideas, beliefs, and values with which we identify generally is met by angry denial that anything is wrong. But it may be helpful to ponder the validity of a [former] Soviet citizen's remark that the essential difference between the Soviets and Americans is that while Soviet citizens often disbelieve their propaganda, we seem to fully accept ours.

But you know, things are going to change. We are the enlightened souls of history of disturb, upset, and open ways for a better understanding. The doubt is false. We have the capacity to enoble. We are voices strong and steady. We are defiant, rebellious. The doubt is false.

We have been told all our lives that we can't change anything, that you can't fight city hall. At every meeting there is someone who always makes a case why we should not be radical—it will alienate someone, we are not ready, we need to educate a little more, get more numbers. Well, you can always make the case not to be radical. But don't. It's a lie. The doubt is false.

We are activists. We are liberators. We are revolutionaries. We are here on earth in this hour of danger and we must move beyond the vision of the [founding fathers] to express our own. And that belief is real!

Always At War

The United States has been engaged in warlike activity during three-fourths of its history. Considering covert activities, the United States has been at war continuously since 1941. The United States is nearly always at war because the United States is nearly always using violence to support the few who are rich against the many who are poor.

—Jerry Fresia

(... The Real Terrorists Continued from page 26)
In the meantime, while the U.S. military behemoth stalks the inhabitants of the earth as the terrorist force that it is, expect resistance against it to increase. Americans continue sowing the seeds of militarism and so should expect to continue reaping its grim consequences—sons and daughters coming home in body bags—until we decide to stop being the merchants of war. CR

—West Texas Slim

Whose
Law
Is
It?
By Ronald A. Young

"The rule of law." At one time or another you've probably heard this phrase. It's used by civics teachers, college professors, politicians, and a host of other disinformation dispensers. What exactly is meant by this catchy little jingle?

Supposedly, the rule of law, as differentiated from the rule of man (or woman), implies that the laws established by the legislative branch of government will be fairly and equally applied to all members of society regardless of their position on the socio-economic ladder. This is in contrast to the rule of man (or woman) where a despotic form of government can make up laws on the fly and apply them arbitrarily according to the whims and fancies of the prevailing dictator.

Now consider the way laws are passed and enforced in the United States. Which method of governance would you say applies? Most legal scholars claim that under the U.S. Constitution we are a nation which operates on the rule of law principle. And if you're a brainwashed drone or a member of the ruling class, you will likely agree with those scholars. But, oh, how wrong you are my friend.

The truth is that the United States passes itself off as being a democratic nation where the rule of law applies, when in reality those persons who control the reigns of power have established a two-tier system that applies the law according to your relationship to political power or wealth—the haves and the have nots. The closer you are to the center of power or wealth the better your chances become that the law will be interpreted and applied much more favorably towards you than would otherwise be the case.

It's not hard to see this in everyday life. Most people recognize that there is a double standard of law application in America, yet their patriotic and nationalistic fervor keeps them in denial. Other folks obediently accept it as part of American life.

The most glaring example of unequal treatment under the law has to do with the actions of the police. If I'm a police officer I can murder you in cold blood just for pulling your wallet out of your pocket. All I have to do to escape punishment is to say these magical words: "I thought she had a gun." If the average working class person did the same thing to someone, he or she would likely end up spending years, perhaps even life, rotting in prison ... or very possibly executed.

To put it bluntly, a cop can shoot you down in the street like a dog and never suffer any serious conse-

quences. On the other hand, if you're defending yourself against an unlawful attack by a rogue cop and just happen to kill him in the process, well, the DA is going to indict you for capital murder and do all he or she can to make an appointment for you with the executioner. This in spite of the fact that under the law you were within your rights to defend yourself.

Now I'm not here to debate the pros and cons of what kind of punishment (if any) should be meted out for any particular act that has been determined by the powers that be to be "criminal." The object of this lesson is to establish the fact that the rule of law, as it's applied in the US, is bogus. It always has been and always will be as long as we live in a capitalistic and authoritarian society.

There is very little difference between the edicts handed down by kings and lords and the kingly pronouncements handed down by today's politicians, DAs, and judges, not to mention the police. While an elected legislature and chief executive, along with a seemingly independent judiciary, give the appearance of fairness and equality before the law, the reality is much different.

Almost all politicians are bought and paid for by members of the ruling class. The politician's primary purpose is to do the bidding of the special interest groups who supply politicians with the cash to run their re-election propaganda campaigns every two or four years. The working class may cast votes for these scoundrels, but once they are in office they have free reign to legislate however they so choose.

Judges aren't much different. In Texas, state judges are elected and are just as beholden to big money as their legislative counterparts. The federal judiciary, though appointed by the president for life, must pass through a series of political hoops in order to be "Confirmed" by the senate. Once they are seated on the bench, federal judges cannot be removed except through impeachment proceedings. However, because the majority of appointments under any particular president are political reflections of that president, there is a constant fluctuation of judicial political ideology. This is most visibly manifested to people in the personage of Supreme Court justices. For example, every time an opening appears on the U.S. Supreme Court, the defenders of a woman's right to have an abortion have to worry about whether a new justice will tilt the scales and reverse the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

The same trickle down theory that the ruling class uses in its economic relationship with the working class also applies to the laws. As previously stated, the further removed you are from the seat of power and wealth, the less likely you are to obtain a favorable outcome under the law compared to the rich and powerful. Some good fortune may actually "trickle down" in the form of the common person getting a break before the law. But

more than likely you will end up being pissed on by the authorities who control the system.

Prisons are prime examples of the contradictions that exist within the legal structure of American society. Here you have people incarcerated who have been determined by the courts to be law breakers. The people relegated to rot in these modern day dungeons are beaten, brutalized, and treated in all manners of contempt, including being murdered by their keepers, acts which by the rule of law are illegal. Yet, the keepers of the prisons are just as immune from the consequences of the law as are the keepers of the law on the street. Prison guards can murder prisoners with few repercussions, the same way police can get away with murdering people on the street.

In Texas, the prison system has been under a federal consent decree for over twenty years. Even though they claim that they will abide by the law if removed from all court supervision, Texas prisoncrats leave no stone unturned in finding ways to flaunt the law and continue abusing prisoners. Led by the state attorney general, John "Cornhead" Cornyn, a fascist Republican, the good ol' boys and girls who rule Texas don't give a damn about breaking the law.

Prison administrators formulate all kinds of rules and regulations governing the behavior of prisoners and guards alike. Yet, when it comes time to enforce these rules and regulations, it's only the ones that deal negatively with prisoners that are given any real teeth. If a prisoner assaults a prison guard, even in self-defense against a rogue guard, he or she will find the heavy hand of authority right there to inflict maximum punishment. But by the same token, a prison guard can brutally murder a prisoner and often walk away without so much as a reprimand.

In the eyes of prisoncrats, prisoners are scum who deserve whatever brutality is dished out to them. Prison guards, however, are seen by that same authority as deserving to be protected from any punishments that might be handed them on account of their illegal transgressions. The relationship between the free world working class and ruling class operates in fundamentally the same way. The ruling class views the working class with disdain and deserving of any punishments due under the rule of law. But when it comes to one of their own, the ruling class says to the law, "hands off."

And if the working class or prisoners happen to be successful in obtaining gains under the rule of law, well the ruling class then simply changes the law so that whatever relief was granted in the past is no longer available. So-called tort reform does this by limiting the amount of damages workers can collect from irresponsible corporations. Therefore, million dollar damage awards that might otherwise discourage companies from maiming workers are no longer available in many states.

Prisoners have in the past been so successful at litigating miserable prison conditions that the federal government decided to put a stop to it by changing the law. The Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) came into existence in 1996 limiting the type of relief prisoners can now receive in federal courts and also allows states to get out from under consent decrees and final judgements that the courts had previously decided in favor of the prisoners. One more example of why the downtrodden of America will never be able to achieve emancipation and liberation working within "the system." As soon as we get close to achieving our goals, the ruling class would change the rules to thwart us.

"Cornhead", along with "Dubya" and the spineless worms that inhabit the offices of the Texas legislature are all pathological liars, thieves, murderers, and scoundrels. The judges in Texas are nothing more than cheap political prostitutes who dispense justice in accordance to whether or not you made a contribution to their slush funds.

In the United States, a reactionary ruling class manipulates the laws to protect the rich and powerful while subjecting the rest of us to all sorts of heinous and barbaric treatment. Don't believe the lies; we are not a nation governed by the rule of law, we are a nation under the arbitrary rule of despotic fascists. The rules can change whenever the ruling class feels threaten or just wants them changed.

It's time to make some changes of our own. This is not an admonition to reform the system—to make its oppressive nature more equitable. It's time to smash the entire capitalistic, authoritarian structure and send the ruling class despots scurrying back under the rocks from which they crawled. We must build a new society. It's time for anarchy. CR

Anarchy Preferable To Authoritarianism

We do not believe in the infallibility, nor even in the general goodness of the masses; on the contrary. But we believe even less in the infallibility and goodness of those who seize power and legislate, who consolidate and perpetuate the ideas and interests which prevail at any given moment. In every respect, the injustice and transitory violence of the people is preferable to the leaden-rule, the legalized State violence of the judiciary and the police.

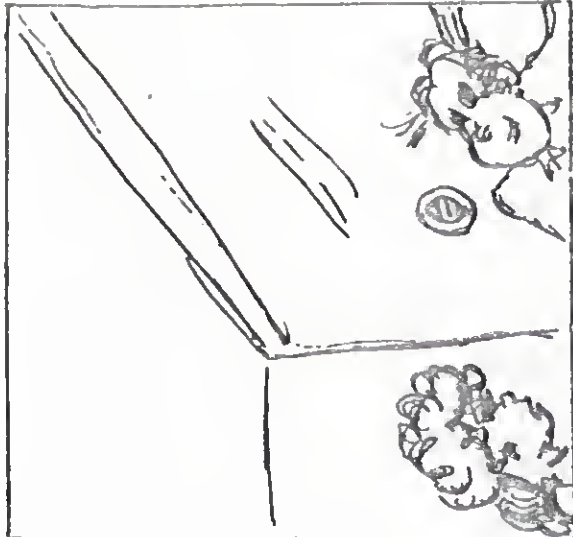
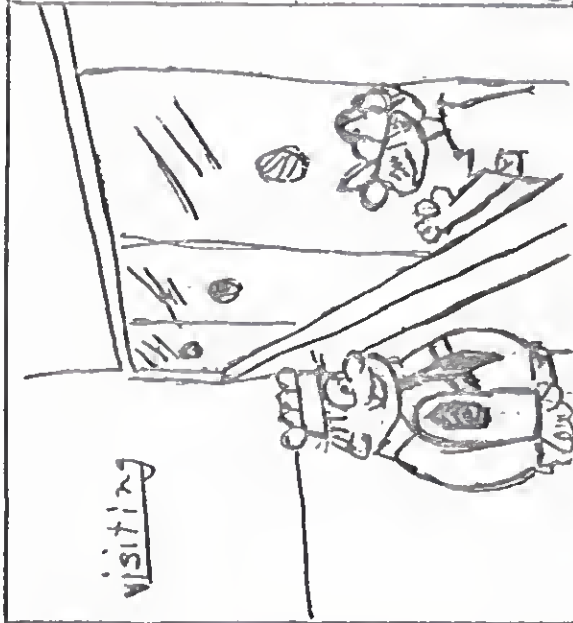
—Errico Malatesta, Italian Anarchist

Power Will Not Disappear Voluntarily

The people in power will not disappear voluntarily, giving flowers to the cops just isn't going to work. This thinking is fostered by the establishment; they like nothing better than love and nonviolence. The only way I like to see cops given flowers is in a flower pot from a high window.

—William Burroughs, U.S. Author, 1969

Help in Contempt



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